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Shell games: She was always a he

NATURE Zookeepers in Cleveland are the ones feeling slow because after more than 50 years, the tortoise they called "Mary" is actually a male.

Officials at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo say it can be tough to establish the sex of a giant Aldabra tortoise because the reproductive organs normally aren't visible. But Mary's maleness was unexpectedly revealed earlier this month during a routine exam. Spokesman Tom O'Konowitz said yesterday the zoo has decided to rename the tortoise Terry.

The tortoise is estimated to be between 75 and 100 years old.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Local pg 12

Wrong spot for G20: Cop

On the web
Visit metronews.ca for news updates

Gifts

EVAN AGOSTINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Victoria's Secret Angels, from left, Behati Prinsloo, Doutzen Kroes, Alessandra Ambrosio and Marisa Miller blow a kiss after sharing their favourite holiday gift picks yesterday at the new Victoria's Secret SOHO Store in New York. For Metro's holiday gift picks, see our first Holiday Shopping Guide of the season, beginning on page 37.

Torture shocker

Diplomat says feds turned blind eye in Afghanistan

A federal official has dropped a political bombshell on Parliament, alleging suspects handed over by Canada to Afghan authorities were tortured — and the government was at best indifferent and at worst tried to cover it up.

Richard Colvin, an intelligence officer based in Washington who spent 18 months in Afghanistan in the No. 2 diplomatic post, delivered the stunning revelations to a packed committee room yesterday.

His calm, precise recitation to the special House of Commons committee on Afghanistan directly contradicts nearly three years of assurances by the Conservative government that there was no credible evidence prisoners handed over to local authorities were abused, in violation of international law.

Colvin said the sweeping roundups of prisoners — many of them likely innocent — and their subsequent abuse has driven a wedge between Canada and the people of Kandahar, and destroyed much of the goodwill soldiers have fought and died to achieve.

Richard Colvin

In a meticulous seven-page opening statement, Colvin picked apart the handling of the prisoner issue by the Conservative government and the military, starting with the assurance that no torture had taken place.

He said he was ordered not to write about prisoners, and soon afterward reports from the field began to be "censored" and revised to the point where diplomats could "no longer write that the security situation in Afghanistan was deteriorating."

Conservative MPs on the committee were indignant and said Colvin's testimony amounted to hearsay. They insisted he had provided no "first-hand" proof of torture, despite having seen bruises and other marks of abuse on the prisoners he interviewed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Globalive to keep 800 employees on payroll

Globalive will keep 800 employees hired for its new cellphone service with some of them doing paid volunteer work, while waiting to see if it gets federal approval to launch its wireless business, the company said yesterday.

The CRTC prevented Globalive from launching its Wind Mobile phone service this month, ruling the company isn't Canadian-owned and controlled.

4

Globalive wants to be Canada's fourth major wireless carrier and compete nationally with Rogers, Bell and Telus. It has spectrum across Canada, but not in Quebec.

About 400 of Globalive's cellphone retail store and call centre employees in Toronto and Calgary have finished training and are volunteering at organizations such as food banks, boys and girls groups, literacy groups and the Salvation Army, said Chris Robbins, chief commercial officer at Globalive Wireless.

Robbins said Globalive hopes there's a quick resolution so its cellphone employees can get to work, but there's no specific time line. "We're talking weeks, not quarters or years, for sure," he said of keeping them on the payroll. "Obviously to let 800 people go is a massive, massive business decision."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Local

Cops seek suspect after teen robbed

Police are searching for a male suspect after a teen was robbed at gunpoint in front of a Scotiabank downtown yesterday. The male teen was approached by the suspect in front of the bank in the Yonge and Wellesley streets area. He was threatened with a black handgun and a demand was made for his backpack. The suspect is described as male, black, medium build, between 19 to 25 years old, wearing baggy jeans, a white shirt with a checkered hoodie, Nike shoes with a blue stripe and a black Blue Jays hat. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

Urban Compass

April Lindgren brings Metro readers the issues that are affecting Torontonians

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video On the ground with Canadian troops as they deal with dozens of IEDs in latest Afghan battle at **metronews.ca/canada**

Blogs The Global Peasant checks in with a pea soup recipe just in time to fight winter chills.

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Caught in commuter chaos

Thousands forced onto shuttle buses after subway tunnel damaged

TTC repair crews fixed a section of the Yonge subway line pierced by a road saw in time for today's rush hour.

The transit authority sent out an email service alert at 8:25 p.m. stating full subway service had resumed on the Yonge-University-Spadina line.

Commuter chaos gripped the Yonge subway line after a third-party contractor caused tunnel damage, closing the busiest line between Bloor and Eglinton stations at the busiest time of day.

Police organized hundreds of people on the southeast corner of Yonge and Bloor into a long single-file line, wrapping around The Bay department store, to better organize those waiting for a northbound shuttle.

Yonge Street between Charles Street, south of Bloor, and Davenport Avenue, north of Bloor was closed to regular traffic to ease passage for the 50 shuttle buses pressed into service. That left east-west streets that got the diverted traffic, including Davenport, with total gridlock.

The disruption began at 2:30 p.m. yesterday and affected as many as 300,000 commuters, with no service at the Davisville, St. Clair, Summerhill and Rosedale stations. Bus stops along the closed route were packed with people.

"Why didn't I drive today," shouted an exasperated man trying to find his way into a line in the amorphous mob clamouring for a spot on one of the packed shuttles on the Eglinton station bus platform.

Most of the city's cab companies were reporting a 20-minute minimum wait in the area affected by the subway closure.

JOHN R. KENNEDY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Thousands of commuters crowd the corner of Yonge and Bloor during last night's rush waiting to board shuttles after the subway system was shut down northbound between Bloor and Eglinton.

The TTC said the damage to the tunnel was caused by a "third-party contractor" doing work on Jackes Avenue near Yonge Street and south of St. Clair station.

A TTC crew were expected to work last night to brace Jackes Avenue, where a two-foot wide strip of pavement and concrete had been cut.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TTC says sorry

TTC chair Adam Giambrone appeared at Yonge and Bloor last night and apologized to riders — many of whom approached him personally to complain — but said the TTC is doing its best to cope with the mistake of a "third-party contractor."

He said the number of shuttle buses going up and down Yonge Street between the closed stations was increased from 50 to 70 or 80 and they became much more efficient once police closed parts of Yonge north and south of Bloor to speed their passage.

But, he added, "we cannot replace 30,000 people an hour moving on the subway. You just can't move that many people up Yonge Street on buses. That's why we have a subway."

Giambrone said going after the contractor for TTC staff overtime and other costs associated with the disruption will be considered later.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bust leads to 72 charges against two men

Two Toronto men have been arrested and 72 charges have been laid after a police search uncovered three firearms and a large amount of narcotics.

The guns and gangs task force executed a search warrant in a condominium complex in the Lake Shore W. and Legion Road area after police were informed of suspicious activity at two homes in the complex.

"The benefit is that two firearms have been taken off the streets ... and the two people accused ... have been taken into custody."
Const. Tony Vella

"The benefit is that two firearms have been taken off the streets as well as a Tech 9 machine pistol and the two people accused of committing these crimes have been taken into custody," said Const. Tony Vella.

Vella confirmed both men are known to police.

William Ortiz, 27, of Toronto is facing 42 firearm and drug charges including four counts of possession of prohibited firearm with ammunition and traffic in cocaine.

Michael Lucho, 29, of Toronto is facing 30 charges including three counts of possession of a prohibited firearm with ammunition.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hamilton police say body may be that of missing man

Hamilton police say a body found on Monday may be a man that has been missing in the area for more than two months. David Skarratt, a 25-year-old man from the Flamborough area, has been missing since Sept. 15. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Odour leads police to suspected drug lab

METH A suspicious chemical odour led authorities to a suspected meth lab inside a north Toronto home.

Toronto police closed off a block in the area — near Avenue Road and Lawrence Avenue — while they investigated the duplex.

Police confirmed officers had found evidence to suggest the home was outfitted to produce crystal meth and to store equipment used to produce the drugs.

The drug lab was discovered by firefighters after they received a call from a neighbour who smelled acetone in the air around 2 a.m. No one was inside the home at the time of the discovery.

Authorities say they will remain at the scene for the rest of the day to make sure the chemicals are taken out of the home safely.

No area residents have been evacuated.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A Toronto Public Health nurse loads syringes with H1N1 vaccine.

Get a shot, but take your time: Minister

Ontario Health Minister Deb Matthews was urging people across the province yesterday to take their time coming out to get the H1N1 flu shot now that it's being made available to anyone over the age of six months.

But she did stress that everyone should get their shot.

Flu Outbreak

Ontario and Manitoba each announced that clinics all over those provinces would throw their doors open today to the general public regardless of their medical condition.

Calling the move "a big step forward," Matthews said officials were able to extend the vaccination to everyone earlier than expected because they were now confident there will be enough vaccine.

"I will get my flu shot as soon as possible, and I urge everyone to do so as well," Matthews said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Screening may help women avoid heart attacks, strokes

HEATHER BUCHAN
for Metro Toronto

Every seven minutes in Canada, someone dies from a heart attack or stroke. And the majority of those people are women.

When it comes to heart attacks and strokes, women are more likely to die than men. Women are also 10 times more likely to die from cardiovascular disease than from any other type of disease.

But results from a recent study, released yesterday by the American Heart Association, indicate that Canadian women may reduce their risk of heart attacks and strokes if they are screened for elevated hsCRP — a type of protein naturally produced in the body and thought to be a marker of inflammation and increased risk of cardiovascular and other diseases — and follow appropriate measures.

Because nearly half of all cardiovascular diseases and injuries occur in people who are seemingly healthy and who have low or normal levels of low density lipoprotein cholesterol, a traditional indicator of cardiovascular risk, elevated hsCRP screening could prevent many deaths.

According to the Canadian Institute for Health Information, last year 165 out of every 100,000 people in Toronto were hospitalized for heart attacks, while 131 out of 100,000 people were hospitalized for strokes.

"Until now, we've had limited information about the benefits of primary prevention in women," says Dr. Jacques Genest, director of the cardiology division at McGill University Health Centre.

Risk factors

- The Public Health Agency of Canada identifies physical inactivity, obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes in addition to smoking as modifiable risk factors for cardiovascular diseases.

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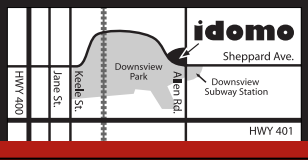

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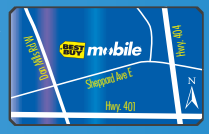

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Toronto police force veteran charged for failing to remain at accident

A 40-year-old Toronto police officer was arrested on Tuesday for failing to remain at the scene of an accident. Const. Sean McGuiness, who has been with the force for 20 years,, was charged in connection with a collision between two vehicles near Lake Shore Boulevard and Kipling Avenue on Sept. 25. METRO NEWS SERVICES

HST hearings not needed?

There's no need for the Ontario government to hold public hearings on its plan to harmonize the provincial sales tax with the GST next July, Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday, adding that voters can pass judgment on the issue in the 2011 provincial election.

Dalton McGuinty

"There has been, and there will continue to be, all kinds of opportunities for people to have conversations on this, whether you're talking about talk radio, letters to the editor, blogs, water cooler conversations (or) kitchen table conversations," said McGuinty.

"I would be very surprised if this was not an issue up for consideration at the time of the next election. People will have an opportunity to pass judgment on us in connection with the HST."

The opposition parties promised to use any delaying tactics they can think of to block the enabling legislation, at least until after the legislature's Christmas break on Dec. 10.

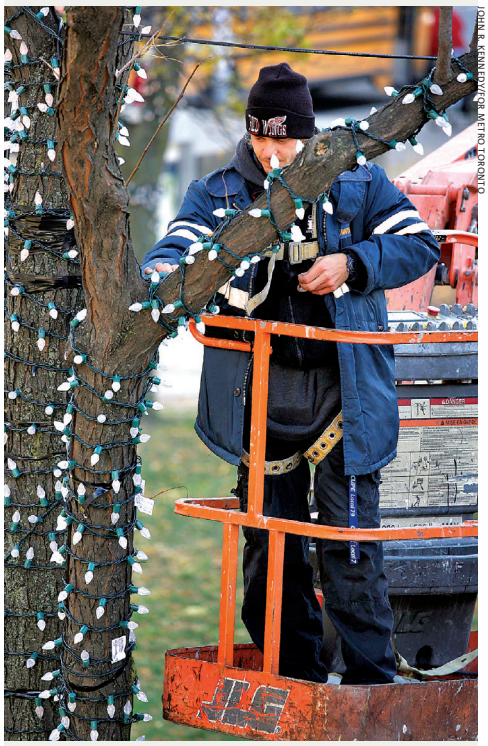
"It's going to be a long November and December for Mr. McGuinty and his Liberals if they think they're going to ram the HST legislation through without public consultations," warned Progressive Conservative critic Lisa MacLeod.

McGuinty should agree to hold public hearings on the largest tax changes in Ontario history, and hear the concerns people have about paying eight per cent more for goods and services currently exempt from the provincial sales tax, said NDP Leader Andrea Horwath.

"He needs to be talking to the people and hearing what they have to say about the fear they have about the impact of this tax," said Horwath.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cavalcade of Lights **Getting ready**



JOHN K. KENNEDY/GLOBAL METRO TORONTO

A worker puts the finishing touches on strings of holiday lights on a tree in Nathan Phillips Square. The official kickoff for the annual Cavalcade of Lights takes place on Nov. 29.

Suspect sought in attempted child abduction in Hamilton

CRIME Hamilton Police are appealing to the public for information after an attempted abduction on a residential street in Gershome yesterday morning.

A 12-year-old girl alone with her five-year-old brother left home around 8:30 a.m. on Tindale Court and began walking northbound through a Quigley Road parking lot.

A man in the parking lot approached the siblings and grabbed the 12-year-old by the arm. As she managed to struggle free, the man grabbed the brother.

The 12-year-old started screaming for help, which eventually scared the man off. He ran to his vehicle and fled the area south on Quigley Road, police said.

The car is described as black with a white stripe down the hood.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Description

- The suspect is described as male, black, 20 to 30 years old, with short, black hair, thin build, with a Jamaican accent. Anyone with information is asked to contact Hamilton Police at 905-546-2907.

Province's habitat shields praised

WILDLIFE A group called Save Ontario Species is giving cautious praise for a new group of habitat protections by the provincial government.

It is particularly happy with protection announced for the Jefferson salamander and wood turtle, but says more could have been done for the American badger.

The three are among nine endangered species that have just received habitat protection under the Endangered Species Act. The coalition says protection for the Jefferson salamander, which is threatened with extinction in Ontario, and the wood turtle set a strong precedent by closely following the science-based recommendations of the recovery teams. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police ID man killed in west-end home invasion
Police have identified a man who died after being shot Tuesday night in a home invasion in west Toronto as Alex Rodney Rundle, 28. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Health-care honours

Four GTA care groups nab province's top awards

GTA health-care organizations swept five of six top health-care awards yesterday at an annual health care expo, Celebrating Innovations in Health Care, which is hosted by the Ontario government.

More than 200 health-care experts from across the province were considered for this year's awards, which were presented by Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care Deb Matthews.

St. Michael's Hospital was recognized for its prenatal "passport" program called My Baby and Me: Infant Passport for Young Pregnant Homeless Women, which helps homeless and marginally-housed young women by providing education and support throughout their pregnancy. St. Michael's was also awarded for creating its corporate patient flow team, which is responsible for holistically monitoring and improving patient flow.

Mount Sinai Hospital was recognized for its innovation in Real-Time Reporting of Utilization and Performance in the Emergency Department program, which allows for minute-by-minute patient monitoring and tracking.

The Registered Nurses Association of Ontario received an award for its three-year government-funded program called Strategies to Support Long-Term Care Staff in the Uptake of Best Practices, which enhances quality of care for long-term care residents.

Rouge Valley Health Systems received recognition for its Neonatal and Pediatric Orientation Program designed for new graduates. Using lectures, videos, lab practice and clinical mentorship, the program helps new graduates acquire practical experience.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Catherine Moravac, a St. Michael's Hospital medical research co-ordinator, poses with Deb Matthews, minister of health and long-term care.

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Mississauga to hire an integrity commissioner

Mississauga City Council has voted unanimously to develop a code of conduct for councillors and to hire an integrity commissioner who would advise council and adjudicate on issues such as conflict of interest. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'Two beer' defence completely nixed

A change in legislation last year to a "two beer" defence that put a greater onus on an alleged drunk driver applies to cases in the system before the law change, Ontario's top court ruled yesterday.

Before July 2, 2008, someone charged with driving over 80 — referring to the legal limit of blood alcohol concentration — could testify they just had two beers and have a toxicologist testify that wouldn't be enough to give a reading of over 80.

It's known as the "two beer" defence or the Carter defence.

"We didn't have to attack the machine, we did not have to prove the machine was faulty, we didn't have to prove the operator of the machine was incompetent or not operating it properly and we didn't have to link either one of those errors to the reading," said J. Thomas Wiley, a lawyer for the man in this appeal.

"This issue is an important one: In Ontario there are approximately 3,000 cases in this category."
Panel of judges in unanimous decision

A Criminal Code amendment on July 2, 2008, changed the law to require an alleged drunk driver to prove the machine was malfunctioning or was operated improperly.

The man at the centre of this appeal, Samuel Dineley, was charged with impaired driving and driving over 80 on July 21, 2007, and was acquitted on July 24, 2008.

The Crown appealed, but that judge held that cases in the system before July 2, 2008, could use the old law, the so-called Carter defence. The Crown appealed that ruling and yesterday the Ontario Court of Appeal granted it and ordered a new trial for Dineley.

That means as of yesterday the amendment applies to anyone with an alleged "over 80" offence committed before July 2, 2008, with trials continuing or starting after that date.

"This issue is an important one: In Ontario there are approximately 3,000 cases in this category," the panel of judges writes in its unanimous decision.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charles, a male silverback gorilla, picks a piece of fruit from the "Nassir" station yesterday at the Toronto Zoo. The zoo set up piles of fruit at stations with five different name choices, deciding whichever pile the dad ate from first would be the baby's name.

Gorilla 'picks' Nassir for his son's name

ZOO Charles the gorilla eyed a bank of cameras for a minute yesterday morning before languidly reaching for a piece of fruit, unwittingly selecting his 2½-month-old son's name.

Nassir, that's his baby.

The Toronto Zoo decided to give the proud papa a hand in choosing the name of their newest western lowland gorilla, born Sept. 2.

More than 5,000 name suggestions were submitted by members of the public. The only stipulation was the names had to start with the letter N, to honour the baby's mother Ngozi.

Zoo staff and a group of children whittled the mass of names down to the top 10, which were then voted on online. The five most popular were displayed yesterday in the gorilla habitat, with a pile of fruit beneath each.

As he entered the habitat Charles circled the perimeter once, then took a seat next to the Nassir sign. He stared at the gathered members of the public and media, apparently weighing his options for a little while, before eating some fruit.

Alice Mah and her two-year-old daughter April had originally submitted the name Nassir, so Charles' selection was particularly special for them.

"We were so excited and we were taking video footage," Mah said. "April was going, 'Oh, go get the Nassir apples!'"

They chose the name because of its Arabic meaning.

"We looked at African boy names and we were looking at the meanings of the names and we found that Nassir meant safe or to protect, so we thought that was an appropriate name for this little baby gorilla," Mah said.

Nassir's birth was exciting for staff because the western lowland gorilla is designated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as critically endangered — one step away from being listed as extinct in the wild.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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New trial for accused mother set for next year

The woman accused of killing her 2-year-old daughter, and whose case resulted in a mistrial last Friday, will have to wait until Oct. 25, 2010 for a new trial. The Crown intends to continue the prosecution in the second-degree murder case against Erika Mendieta, 33, defence lawyer Robin Parker said yesterday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Student support for school cops on rise: Police chief

Survey shows 67 per cent have positive relationship with 'resource officers' as program grows

Toronto's police chief says students are warming to the idea of having officers in the hallways.

Bill Blair says that was the feedback from a survey of administrators, students and parents at locations with and without what are called school resource officers.

Blair says 67 per cent of students reported a "good or excellent" relationship with police in their schools, up from 56 per cent when the program started about one and a half years ago.

There are about 50 schools with resource officers, up from 29 last year.

Bill Blair

The program was introduced after 15-year-old Jordan Manners was gunned down in a school hallway in May 2007.

While the survey indicates growing support for the program, students at Northern Secondary School protested last month against having police in their school, after a 16-year-old student was charged with assaulting police during an arrest.

Blair calls the program a work in progress.

"You've got to build those relationships … that eventually will create an environment where people will … go to their police officer if they need a little bit of help.

"And the police officers as well are learning a lot about young people, how they can communicate … the things that they're concerned about, and that only helps us do a better job in policing." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Telus sues Rogers over advertised claims

COMMUNICATIONS Telus Corp. is suing Rogers Communications Inc. in an attempt to force its competitor to abandon claims to Canada's fastest and most reliable network before the holiday smartphone rush heats up.

In documents filed in B.C. Supreme Court, Telus said that since a network upgrade announced Nov. 5, the Rogers network is not faster or more reliable than those operated by Bell and Telus.

"Rogers no longer has a network advantage, so should not be misleading the Canadian public with false superiority claims," Telus spokesman Shawn Hall said, adding Bell is not involved in the case.

Telus' statement of claim said Rogers advertisements boasting "Canada's fastest network: Two times faster than any other," are now false and misleading. It added similar advertisements that Rogers provides "Canada's most reliable network," have also been false since Telus' upgrade.

None of the allegations have been proven in court.

Hall said Telus approached Rogers on Nov. 5 demanding that Rogers stop making the claims, but its competitor refused. Telus filed its lawsuit Nov. 12.

Rogers said in a statement yesterday it stands behind its claims and looks forward to vigorously defending its position in court.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Upgrades

- Competition between Telus, Bell and Rogers, which control about 90 per cent of Canada's wireless market, intensified when Bell and Telus upgraded their wireless networks, enabling them to sell Apple's coveted iPhone for the first time earlier this month.

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Manulife to issue over $2.5B in common equity

Toronto-based Manulife Financial Corp., Canada's largest insurance company, announced yesterday it is issuing over $2.5 billion in common equity in a bought deal arrangement. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP slams G20 site

Huntsville too small for summit, argues top cop

Canada's top cop has dared to say what top politicians won't: Ontario's Huntsville is just too small to host the G20 summit, despite tens of millions in expenditures to bring the area up to world standards.

RCMP Commissioner William Elliott said yesterday it would be "difficult if not impossible" to hold the Group of 20 summit next summer in the Muskoka cottage-country community, whose premier hotel, the Deerhurst Resort, has just 400 rooms.

"I don't frankly think there's enough room in Deerhurst for all the people (who) would attend a G20," Elliott said in an interview.

The initial plan was to hold the Group of Eight summit in Huntsville and a second, larger G20 meeting somewhere nearby.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced in September that the G20 would be in Muskoka, and that has been the official line ever since.

Elliott said yesterday such decisions are up to the prime minister, not the RCMP. But he suggested that hosting even just the G8 in Ontario's cottage belt will present hurdles.

"It will be a challenge with respect to participants for the G8 given infrastructure in the community, but we're dealing with that."

The Mounties are working on summit security with partners including the Ontario Provincial Police. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP Commissioner William J.S. Elliott gestures as he speaks in his office in Ottawa. Despite tens of millions in expenditures to bring the area up to world standards, Elliott said yesterday it would be "difficult if not impossible" to hold the Group of 20 summit next summer in Huntsville.

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Alleged plotter to remain in jail

TERRORISM A Canadian businessman who denies allegations he was involved in a murky international terrorism plot will remain behind bars in Chicago at least until Dec. 2.

It was not immediately clear why today's scheduled bail hearing for Tahawwur Rana was delayed.

The prosecution did say yesterday it planned to fight to keep Rana behind bars as authorities in the United States, India and Pakistan build a case against him.

"The government is opposing his release on bail," a Department of Justice official said from Chicago yesterday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"We've asked for his pretrial detention." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Complaint

- Rana, 48, has been held in custody since his arrest at home Oct. 18. He owns several businesses, including an immigration consultancy in Toronto. The FBI complaint alleges that Rana and another Chicago resident, American David Headley, were part of a conspiracy.

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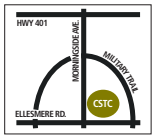

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Cut to constituency allowances for N.S. legislature

The 52 members of the Nova Scotia legislature will see a cut of about $2,600 from their receiptable constituency allowance over the last three months of the current fiscal year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Contracts not properly vetted: Report

Quebec's auditor general isn't satisfied with the level of due diligence by the province's Transport Department when it comes to doling out contracts. Renaud Lachance, left, says in a report tabled in the national assembly today that some contracts his office examined were not properly vetted. Opposition parties are renewing their calls for a public inquiry into the construction industry amid allegations of collusion, bid-rigging and cash going to politicians. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Insurgents keep watch

Taliban stronghold site of operation

The Taliban kept to the shadows of Haji Baba yesterday as Canadian soldiers trying to seize control of the insurgent stronghold continued to pick up apart its defences.

With the operation entering its fifth day, a high-stakes game of hide-and-seek has emerged between insurgents and Canadian troops and their Afghan counterparts in the small village southwest of Kandahar city.

"We are aware we are being observed by insurgents in the vicinity of Haji Baba, and they are using children as shields," the military said in a statement, which went on to describe how the children would emerge whenever helicopters or tanks arrived near a compound.

"We are aware we are being observed by insurgents."
Military statement

The operation was designed to telegraph the intention of coalition forces to move into the town in order to flush out insurgents with little contact. Intelligence reports, however, indicate many have not fled and have instead opted to blend in with the population.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cannon to attend Karzai's swearing-in

AFGHANISTAN Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon will be on hand today for the swearing-in of Afghan President Hamid Karzai, which will take place within the relative security of the presidential palace in a capital city fraught with fear.

French counterpart Bernard Kuchner, Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will also be among those to mark the official beginning of Karzai's controversial and disputed second term as leader of the war-racked nation.

Cannon will meet with Afghanistan's leadership, international partners and allies, and members of the Canadian Forces, Foreign Affairs said in a media release Tuesday.

Clinton stressed yesterday that the United States plans to keep pressing the Afghan government to crack down on rampant corruption, saying the American military cannot defeat militancy without the help of a strong partner.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LUVIN LIM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada's Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon, shown here with China's Foreign Affairs Minister Yang Jiechi, will attend the swearing-in of Afghan President Hamid Karzai today.

m.metronews.ca

ScanLife

Amid militant threats, security will be tight during the ceremony. Scan this code for the full story.

Not-guilty plea in alleged murder plot

CRIME A laser eye surgeon in the United States has pleaded not guilty to an alleged murder-for-hire targeting two colleagues with Canadian roots.

Dr. Michael Mockovak also had his bail lowered from $3 million to $2 million, a court spokesman said yesterday.

Mockovak, 51, is accused of paying $10,000 to an informant for the murder of his business partner, Dr. Joseph King. The pair founded Clearly Lasik laser surgery clinics in Washington, Oregon, Alberta and British Columbia.

Prosecutors allege Mockovak also targeted Brad Klock, a former hockey player from Port Alberni, B.C., who had sued the company after being dismissed from his job as president.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Cancun Travel Nov 28 - Dec 5/ts	$199 + taxes & fees $272
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Cozumel Travel Nov 29 - Dec 6/wg	$255 + taxes & fees $277
Aruba Travel Nov 22 - Nov 29/ts	$299 + taxes & fees $240
Cayo Coco Christmas Travel Dec 22 - Dec 29/wg	$315 + taxes & fees $210
Amsterdam Travel Jan 25- Feb 2/ua	$399 + taxes & fees $346
Los Angeles Travel Nov 25 - Dec 2/aa	$419 + taxes & fees $123
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Barcelo Puerto Plata + taxes & fees $321
Departs Nov 26/nol/5g.

Jamaica 7 Nights 4-Star $597
Holiday Inn Sunspree + taxes & fees $269
Departs Nov 27/nol/5g.

Curacao 7 Nights 4-Star $857
Breezes Curacao + taxes & fees $228
Departs Nov 28/sqv/5g.

Los Cabos Christmas 7 Nights 5-Star $895
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CRUISE roundtrip Miami and visit Samana Bay, Tortola, Antigua, St Lucia & St Kitts. Sails Dec 4/ncl.

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Saskatchewan is spending $5.4 million to help people with intellectual disabilities get into group homes and aid programs. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tory leaflets on Israel raise Liberal hackles

Mailings suggest Grits are anti-Semitic, Liberals say

Liberals are incensed that Conservative MPs have distributed taxpayer-funded pamphlets that suggest the Grits are anti-Semitic.

Even New Democrat and Bloc Québécois MPs agree the latest propaganda represents a new low in the Tories' increasingly partisan use of so-called ten percenters — mailings each MP is entitled to send to voters outside their riding.

But the Tories are refusing to apologize, maintaining the pamphlets are a strictly factual account of Liberal waffling on Israel, terrorism and the fight against anti-Semitism.

The pamphlets were mailed recently to households in at least five Liberal-held ridings with large Jewish populations — three in Quebec, one in Toronto and one in Winnipeg — under the names of several Tory MPs.

Montreal Liberal MP Irwin Cotler called the leaflets a "shocking" and "scandalous" misrepresentation of Liberal positions.

"To intentionally misrepresent the facts and to drive a wedge and to seek to associate the Liberals somehow with fuelling anti-Semitic polices or being associated with terrorism, that, I have to say, is something that I have not seen (before)," said Cotler.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TOM HANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Liberal MP Irwin Cotler has expressed dismay over recent Conservative pamphlets that the Grits say paint them as anti-Semitic.

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Seal hunt protests planned for torch relay
A pair of animal-rights groups say they will be protesting the seal hunt during the Olympic torch run over the next few months. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crosby runs with torch

N.S. native thrills hundreds watching in Halifax

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

Sidney Crosby has added another iconic piece of hardware to the collection he's hoisted in his stellar hockey career — the Olympic torch.

Hundreds of people lined a downtown Halifax street yesterday to watch the young captain of the Stanley Cup-winning Pittsburgh Penguins carry the torch.

Clad in an official torchbearer uniform, the 22-year-old ran about 300 metres before he passed on the Olympic flame to snowboarder Sarah Conrad, a native of Dartmouth, N.S.

Crosby, whose hometown of Cole Harbour lies across the harbour from Halifax, was one of 12,000 torchbearers tasked with carrying the flame across Canada as part of a massive relay.

The flame touched down in Nova Scotia on Monday morning. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sidney Crosby, from nearby Cole Harbour, N.S., carries the Olympic torch in Halifax yesterday. Follow the Olympic torch's journey with an interactive map at metronews.ca/sports.

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*Limited time lease offers based on new 2010 Honda models. Lease example based on 2010 Civic DX Sedan, model FA1E2AE5 available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. £3.9% lease APR for 48 months. Monthly payment is $148.50 with $2,400 down payment or equivalent trade, first monthly payment and $0 security deposit due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $10,766.64. Taxes, license, insurance, freight and PDI of $1,380 and registration are extra. 96,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. Retailer may lease for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. ‡MSRP for new 2010 Civic DX Sedan, model FA1E2MDX and new 2010 CR-V LX 2WD, model RE3H3AEY as set by Honda Canada Inc. effective November 3rd, 2009. £0% lease APR for 48 months on new 2010 Accord LX 4-cylinder models; by $1,000 on all new 2010 Accord V6 models; by $1,000 on all new 2010 Civic models except Hybrid; by $1,500 on all new 2010 CR-V models. †Offers valid from November 3rd, 2009 through November 30th, 2009 at participating Honda retailers. Offers valid only for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. *See Centre Honda for details.

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N.S. premier seeks unity

Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter says he wants to promote regional unity in the face of a growing rift over the proposed $5-billion sale of NB Power to Hydro-Quebec. Dexter will travel to Labrador today for the Council of Atlantic Premiers meeting in Churchill Falls. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Strong sales forecast for weather calendar

They are the stories of Canadians' misery, hardship and misfortune. But we're not talking about the daily news headlines.

It's the 22nd edition of The Canadian Weather Trivia Calendar by popular weather prognosticator David Phillips of Environment Canada.

Chock full of trivia, quizzes, photos and factoids about everything from hurricanes to snowstorms to heatwaves, the calendar indulges a true Canadian passion, said Phillips.

"What subject do Canadians know more about, are more entertained about, more informed about than the weather?" asked Phillips.

So popular is the weather trivia calendar in Canada, it even outsells the Playboy calendar. About 30,000 English copies and 5,000 French copies a year fly off the shelves of major bookstores. But the calendar is a labour of love; Phillips doesn't make a cent.

"There's no skin and cleavage in this calendar, it's all about the layered up look," he joked.

The calendar has evolved over the years from a black-and-white version to one full of colourful photos and cartoons.

Each day on the calendar has at least one weather anecdote except for one day of the month that features a quiz.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

How it's made

- David Phillips combs through 25,000 weather stories he has collected over his 40-year career, newspaper clippings, Hudson's Bay records, diaries, ship records and small town history books, balancing calendar entries from various provinces each month.

Appeal court tells cabinet to revisit Nazi deportation

DECISION An appeal court has ordered the federal cabinet to revisit its decision to strip accused Nazi war criminal Helmut Oberlander of his Canadian citizenship.

In a 2-1 decision made public yesterday, the Federal Court of Appeal told cabinet to reconsider the issue of whether Oberlander was a willing member of his military unit, given that the penalty for desertion was execution.

In writing for the majority, Justice Carolyn Layden-Stevenson said Oberlander's citizenship is a matter for cabinet to determine.

"However, in view of its serious consequences, it is critical that all relevant issues be considered and analyzed. The process must not only be proper and fair, it must be seen to be so."

> **"The process must not only be proper and fair, it must be seen to be so."**
> Justice Carolyn Layden-Stevenson

The retired real-estate developer from Waterloo, Ont., is alleged to have been a member of a Nazi death squad, the Ek 10a, which operated behind the German army's front line in the eastern-occupied territories during the Second World War.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. stops Canadian canola meal at border because of salmonella

FARMERS Western farmers say the U.S. is stopping an increasing number of canola meal shipments from Canadian plants at the border over concerns about salmonella bacteria.

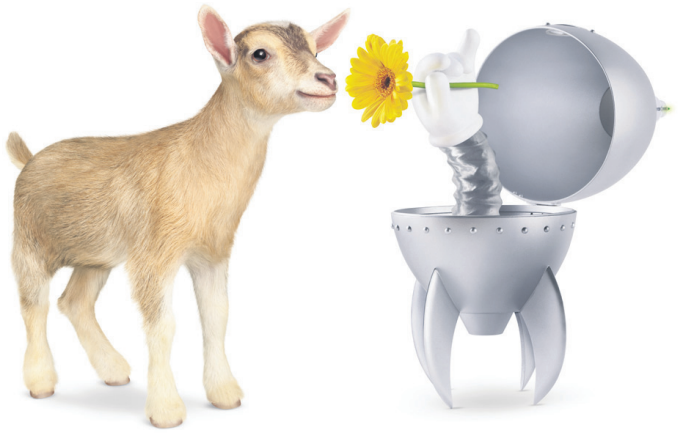
And they are calling on the federal government to help sort out the situation before the backlog affects production and the price of the lucrative crop, which is used in animal feed.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration says import alerts have been slapped on canola meal plants operated by Bunge Canada in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario; Cargill in Saskatchewan and Viterra in Manitoba.

The alerts allow inspectors to detain the shipments because they appear to contain a poisonous substance that could be harmful.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency officials say it is up to individual companies to satisfy U.S. import rules.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty appears in this file photo. Flaherty says he will tackle the country's debtload as the recession eases.

Debt clock nears $500B

The federal government's debt will zip back over the half-trillion-dollar mark this Sunday evening, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation says.

However, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty insists he'll get back to balancing the books and resume paying down the national debt as the effects of the recession ebb.

The federation tracks the debt on a web clock (www.debtclock.ca), where the last five numbers spin almost too quickly for the eye to follow. It predicts the tally will roll over the $500-billion line at 10:56:53 p.m. ET on Sunday.

That debt, which doesn't include provincial or municipal borrowing, amounts to $14,880.39 for every man, woman and child in the country, said Kevin Gaudet, the group's federal director.

It is also the first time the debt has been that high since October 2003. It first hit $500 billion in August 1994 and climbed to an all-time high of about $540 billion in 2000 before starting to decline.

This year's deficit is forecast at over $55 billion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Navy contract 30% over budget: Audit

SPENDING A National Defence audit has uncovered major problems with contracts to maintain the navy's anti-aircraft and anti-missile weapons.

The two separate sole-source deals — originally worth a combined $97 million — skyrocketed 30 per cent over-budget since they were awarded more than six years ago. Yet, despite problems and a scattered paper trail, the government renewed the contract last June with the same company, Calgary-based Raytheon Canada Ltd.

The audit, completed last year but just released publicly, found that $110 million had been paid out by February 2008 for the two initial contracts,

Accountants red-flagged the absence of a paper trail. "Twenty per cent of the payments sampled worth $14 million were not supported with subcontractor invoices," said the review, which was posted online.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Conviction in Saskatchewan home invasion murder
A man charged in a deadly home invasion in southern Saskatchewan has been found guilty on two counts of first-degree murder. Daniel Richard Wolfe has also been convicted on three charges of attempted murder. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RAY BOURGEOIS/THE CANADIAN PRESS/FREDERICTON DAILY GLEANER

Fredericton's Legion Branch 4 president Jean-Guy Perrault examines the damaged Provincial Cenotaph last week.

Cenotaph may have broken on its own

NEW BRUNSWICK Police in Fredericton now say it's possible that a broken granite cross at the provincial cenotaph may have toppled on its own, rather than having been vandalized.

The smashed cross was discovered just two days before Remembrance Day, prompting outrage across the country.

At the time, police launched an investigation and called on the public for any help to find the vandals responsible.

"Generally, that's the reaction people would have when they find property damaged," said Fredericton police Const. Ralph Currie.

But now Currie says investigators will ask experts in masonry whether the cross could have fallen on its own.

He says the top-heavy cross — which stood almost three metres high — was repaired two years ago after it became loose, and a metal rod was installed to secure it.

"So far in the investigation, there's nothing to substantiate or to show that absolutely this granite cross had fallen over as a result of criminal activity," he said.

But Jean-Guy Perreault, president of branch No. 4 of the Royal Canadian Legion in Fredericton, said he believes vandals are to blame.

"It is hard to believe that it could fall by itself," he said. "Personally, I don't see it, but police are doing a good job of investigating it."

Perreault said he would feel better if he learned that no one vandalized the cenotaph. A number of local companies have offered to repair the cross for free.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canwest boss blasts CRTC

Cable companies have gained so much power they have become a threat to Canadian broadcasting, and the national telecommunications regulator is mostly to blame, says Canada's second-largest private broadcaster.

Canwest Global Corp. president Leonard Asper blamed the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission for setting ground rules that have impoverished broadcasters and put cable firms in the penthouse.

"Broadcasting is a regulated business. Once you decide to regulate, it should be fair regulation," he chided the CRTC during hearings on the future of broadcasting yesterday. "Yet over the past 40 years, regulatory policies and decisions have favoured one sector to the detriment of another, resulting in a massive wealth transfer."

Leonard Asper

Cable firms like Rogers and Shaw have most of the power in the industry today, he said.

Canwest is the last of the major broadcasters to appear before the CRTC asking that the regulator set conditions that would compel cable and satellite operators to pay for TV signals.

The trouble is, making such a decision would leave it open for the carriers to charge customers as much as $10 a month to cover the extra costs, which they have said they would do.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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14 Hells Angels arrested in Quebec
Police in central Quebec are rounding up 14 suspected Hells Angels associates believed to be involved in drug trafficking. The second phase of the police operation began yesterday morning and comes about five months after 15 people were arrested. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Memorial U. finally finds new president

The search for a new president of Memorial University of Newfoundland started with a national uproar over academic freedom and ended with the appointment of an Alberta soil expert.

Gary Kachanoski, who has served as vice-president of research at the University of Alberta, was named yesterday to take over the school's top job July 1.

The selection process for the prestigious post was revamped after accusations of political meddling erupted last year.

There was outrage and disbelief in the national academic community after the former education minister personally interviewed — and rejected — two candidates. They included perceived front-runner Eddy Campbell, who was acting president at the time and has since moved on to become the University of New Brunswick's president.

Kachanoski

Joan Burke was shuffled out of the education post last April, but Premier Danny Williams said the cabinet overhaul had nothing to do with the presidential search.

He also said his government would stay out of the selection process in future.

Provincial law gives cabinet the authority to approve or reject the search committee's pick, but approval had long been considered a formality.

Bob Simmonds, head of Memorial's board of regents and its search committee, took pains yesterday to stress the government's hands-off stance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Future of foster home in doubt

SASKATCHEWAN The future of a half-built group home for children in foster care remains in question after a public consultation turned into an acrimonious debate in Prince Albert, Sask.

The Social Services Department began construction of the 10-bed group home for foster children aged six to 12 years earlier this spring after acquiring a building permit.

However, according to a statement from council for the rural municipality of Prince Albert, a stop-work order was issued in summer when they realized the building was to be used as a group home, not a single family residence.

For work to begin again, a bylaw amendment is required, which requires public input.

Area residents said on Tuesday night they were left out of the loop, too, only learning about the project when it appeared in the media.

Many said they were concerned that the ministry was avoiding the democratic process and hadn't consulted them on the project.

Gord Steele, president of the Vintage Power Machines Museum, said crime was his concern, saying he feared the children in the group home might end up vandalizing area homes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Halifax fire boat unstable: Report

NOVA SCOTIA A small, high-powered fire boat that capsized in Halifax harbour last fall, dumping several firefighters into the water, had limited stability and it took only a small amount of force to tip it over, the Transportation Safety Board says in a report released yesterday.

No one was hurt when the new, 8.5-metre Firehawk flipped in calm conditions on Sept. 17, 2008 — the third day of training exercises and performance trials.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Athletes graduating at higher rate than other students: NCAA
The NCAA says U.S. college athletes continue to graduate at a higher rate than other students. The NCAA's latest graduation report, released yesterday, shows that 79 per cent of student-athletes who entered American colleges in 2002-03 received diplomas. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Owner reclaims money bag left at church

Operators of a Catholic shrine in Maryland thought they had been blessed with a big donation this month when a worker found $40,000 US worth of rare coins on the grounds. But officials said yesterday that the bags of money had only been left for safekeeping. The owner returned to retrieve them about a week later, on Monday. The owner said she wanted the Blessed Virgin Mary to watch over her treasure while she was out of town. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Free condoms could save the world?

POPULATION The battle against global warming could be helped if the world slowed population growth by making free condoms and family planning advice more widely available, the UN Population Fund said yesterday. The agency did not recommend countries set limits on how many children people should have, but said: "Women with access to reproductive health services ... have lower fertility rates that contribute to slower growth in greenhouse gas emissions." The world's population will likely rise from the current 6.7 billion to 9.2 billion in 2050, with most of the growth in less developed regions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A lottery and a dogfight

That's the comparison of vote as EU chooses first president tonight

The European Union is about to pick its very first president, a post conjured up after years of tortuous political machination to give the bloc a unified voice on the world stage.

But what emerged from the halls of power on the eve of the historic decision was confusion and cacophony.

There are still no official candidates, and yet more than half a dozen politicians are said to be in the running. Prospects range from the world-famous Tony Blair to Herman Van Rompuy, the unassuming prime minister of Belgium.

Nevertheless, at a dinner tonight the 27 EU leaders are to pick the president — as well as a foreign minister for Europe — in a ballot that looks more like something between a lottery and a dogfight.

Van Rompuy, the conservative Belgian leader, has emerged as an unlikely front-runner and may reign victorious simply by virtue of being the least offensive candidate.

Blair, with star power in spades, had been an early favourite for the presidency. However, many Europeans chafe at the prospect of being led by a Briton who as prime minister kept Europe at an arm's distance and his nation out of the common EU currency.

And Blair's staunch support for the Iraq war makes him anathema to millions on a continent that was largely opposed to the invasion.

Van Rompuy's other rivals include Dutch Prime Minister Jan-Peter Balkenende, Luxembourg Premier Jean-Claude Juncker, Toomas Ilves, the Estonian president, and Vaira Vike-Freiberga, the former Latvian president, the only female candidate touted.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VIRGINIA MAYO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vice-President and British Member of European Parliament Diana Wallis, centre, protests with colleagues near the European Council in Brussels, Belgium, yesterday against the lack of women candidates for the new top job of EU president.

Iran rejects UN uranium plan

TEHRAN Iran's foreign minister yesterday said his country would not export its enriched uranium for further processing, effectively rejecting the latest UN plan aimed at preventing Tehran from building nuclear weapons. Instead Manochehr Mottaki said Iran would consider a nuclear swap inside Iran as an alternative plan. The counterproposal was an indication of Iran's unwillingness to trust the West with its fuel for the time needed to transform it into the more harmless fuel rods.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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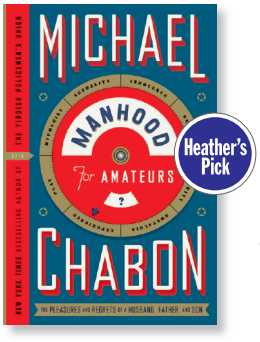
IN CONVERSATION



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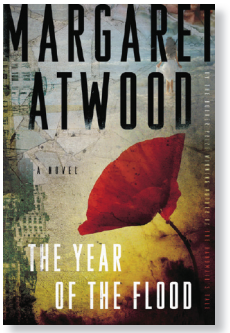
Monday, November 23rd, 7pm
Indigo Manulife Centre
Manhood for Amateurs is the first sustained work of personal writing from **Michael Chabon**. Join us as our Chief Booklover interviews **Michael Chabon**. Book signing to follow.

Heather Reisman & Margaret Atwood
Wednesday, November 25th, 7pm
Indigo Manulife Centre
The Year of the Flood is a brilliant visionary imagining of the future. Join us as our Chief Booklover interviews **Margaret Atwood**. Book signing to follow.



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Polish president released from hospital

A doctor says Poland's President Lech Kaczynski has been released from the hospital. Kaczynski, 60, was admitted Tuesday due to a bad cold. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama predicts terror execution

Professed 9/11 mastermind close to trial

From opposite ends of the globe, U.S. President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder firmly rejected criticism yesterday of the planned New York trial of the professed Sept. 11 mastermind and predicted Khalid Sheikh Mohammed would be exposed as a murderous coward, convicted and executed.

"Failure is not an option," Holder declared.

The president, in a series of TV interviews during his trip to Asia, said those offended by the legal rights accorded Mohammed by virtue of his facing a civilian trial rather than a military tribunal will not find it "offensive at all when he's convicted and when the death penalty is applied to him."

Obama, who is a lawyer, quickly added he did not mean to suggest he was prejudging the outcome of Mohammed's trial. "I'm not going to be in that courtroom," he said. "That's the job of the prosecutors, the judge and the jury."

The president said in interviews broadcast on NBC and CNN that experienced prosecutors in the case who specialize in terrorism have offered assurances that "we'll convict this person with the evidence they've got, going through our system."

In Washington, the Senate Judiciary Committee questioned Holder for hours about his decision to send Mohammed and four others from the U.S. military detention centre at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to New York for trial in a federal courthouse blocks from the site of the World Trade Center towers destroyed in the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001.

The attorney general said he is certain the men will be convicted, but even if a suspect were acquitted, "that doesn't mean that person would be released into our country."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Courthouse is blocks from WTC site

- U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announced last Friday that five accused Sept. 11 conspirators currently held at the U.S. military base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, will be transferred to federal court in New York to face trial — just blocks from the site of the former World Trade Center.

Indonesia **Sri Lankan refugees arrive**

SAEFULJOHATHI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sri Lankan refugees sit at a detention centre on the Indonesian Island of Bintan yesterday after arriving by ship. Dozens of asylum seekers left an Australian customs vessel anchored off Indonesia, ending a monthlong standoff about where to settle a rising number of displaced people.

UN food summit labelled a failure

ROME The director of a United Nations food agency questioned yesterday how world powers could commit so much money to fighting the financial crisis and not to feeding the world's one billion hungry.

The three-day summit at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization ended with little new headway in efforts for a new strategy to help farmers in poor countries produce enough to feed their people.

"If it has been possible to mobilize trillions of dollars" to stimulate the global economy to combat the financial crisis, the world should be able to come up with resources to solve its hunger problem, Jacques Diouf added at a final news conference.

> **"The near total absence of rich country leaders sent a poor message from the beginning."**
> Gawain Kripke, Oxfam

"A single meeting can't solve world hunger, but we certainly expected far more than this," Oxfam spokesman Gawain Kripke said. Apart from Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi, no other Group of Eight leaders attended.

"The near total absence of rich country leaders sent a poor message from the beginning," Kripke said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

British police release IRA suspects
Police have freed two suspects without charge in the March killing of two British troops by IRA dissidents. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.K. faces election as Queen opens parliament

Royal pageantry met hard-nosed electioneering yesterday, as Queen Elizabeth II donned the diamond-encrusted Imperial State Crown to announce the government's plans for the next parliamentary session.

With just months to go until Britain must hold a national election, Prime Minister Gordon Brown is trying to woo voters with populist promises of new social programs and a clampdown on financial sector excess.

Brown must call an election by June, and polls suggest his Labour Party will lose that vote, returning the Conservatives to power after 13 years in opposition.

The Queen's speech, delivered at the ceremonial state opening of parliament, was one of the opening shots in an extended election campaign. It included promises of new laws to toughen banking regulation, restore public trust in government, cut public debt and preserve social services. As is customary, it was short on details.

The annual event is an odd hybrid of politics and regal pomp, a policy speech delivered with the help of scarlet-robed Beefeaters, trumpeters, mounted cavalry and white-plumed bodyguards.

The 83-year-old monarch appeared more robust than last year, when she was suffering from a cold and back pain. It was her 57th Queen's Speech — and one of the shortest, since the new session of parliament will be brief.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAUL EDWARDS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Queen Elizabeth II delivers her speech yesterday, officially opening the new session of British parliament in London.

Parliament/monarch customs

- One of the Queen's predecessors, King Charles I, tried to arrest members of the British House of Commons in 1642 — and he ended up deposed, tried and beheaded. Ever since, the monarch has been barred from entering the Commons, so their speeches are held in parliament's upper chamber, the House of Lords. Lawmakers are summoned from the Commons by an official known as Black Rod — but only after they slam the door in his face to symbolize their independence. In another symbol of the hostility between Commons and crown, a lawmaker is held at Buckingham Palace as a "hostage" during the ceremony to ensure the Queen's safe return.

Killing leads to showdown between radical groups

RUSSIA A simmering confrontation between far-right youths and anti-racist activists has erupted into Moscow's streets after the fatal shooting of an anti-racist activist known as the Bonebreaker.

The violence stems from deep animus between two aggressive camps with starkly different visions of Russia's future — neo-Nazi skinheads who rank in the tens of thousands and militant anti-racist groups that call themselves Antifa, short for anti-fascist.

Former punk rocker Ivan Khutorskoi, 26, provided security for meetings of anti-fascists. He also was known for organizing underground bare-knuckle boxing matches among them, and taking part in violent attacks on ultranationalists.

Khutorskoi was gunned down in his apartment building Monday night. A day later, dozens of masked men pelted the headquarters of the pro-Kremlin youth group Young Russia with stones, trash and steel rods.

Kremlin critics say Russia's leadership created Young Russia and similar youth organizations to keep its political opponents in check and provide support, and sometimes muscle, on the streets. Anti-racist groups claim they have close ties with the ultranationalists they call fascists or Nazis.

Antifa groups have been rapidly adding to their ranks in Russia in recent years, said Galina Kozhevnikova, the director of Sova, a hate-crime watchdog.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Escobar's son not clean: Police chief

BOGOTA Colombia's police director says the son of notorious drug lord Pablo Escobar was directly involved in cartel business, even killings, rejecting the denials of a man whose reappearance is creating a sensation in Colombia 16 years after his father's death. The accusations that Gen. Oscar Naranjo made Tuesday were bolstered by the assertions of a former cartel lieutenant, who says the younger Escobar accompanied his father on a police captain's killing and took drug money. The former Juan Pablo Escobar — now named Sebastian Marroquin — is using his newly released film, Sins of My Father, to apologize to the sons of two politicians the elder Escobar ordered assassinated during his near-decade of terrorizing Colombia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Location, Location, Location?

Where You Live Can Impact Your Car Insurance Rate

How Much Is Your Postal Code Costing You?

We've all heard that when it comes to real estate, the biggest driver of your success is location. Can the same be said for getting the lowest car insurance rate? The answer is – sort of. Insurance companies do use a wide variety of risk factors when setting premiums, and where you live is one of them. The question each insurance company tries to answer is "how likely is it a policyholder living in [insert location here] will make a claim and how much will that claim cost to pay out if there is a loss?" If you live in an area that a given insurance company knows to have a high claims rate, all things being equal, you can expect to pay more than someone living in an area with a lower claims rate.

Should I Consider Moving To Get A Better Rate?

Probably not. If you are like most people, picking up and moving to another neighbourhood in hopes of saving money on your car insurance is likely not an option. And the truth is, even if you did move, there's no guarantee you'd get a lower rate, since each insurance company sets its rates independently and can change them up to 4 times per year according to a wide variety of factors of which your location is only one.

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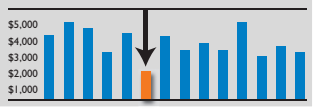

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Dalai Lama puts faith in followers
The Dalai Lama said yesterday there will be a setback in the Tibetan cause when he dies, but that he has faith in the next generation of his followers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Couple arrested in online virus spread

'Zbot' thought to infect tens of thousands of computers

A couple suspected of helping spread some of the Internet's most aggressive computer viruses has been arrested in the English city of Manchester, police said yesterday.

The electronic crimes unit of London police said a man and a woman, both 20, were arrested Nov. 3 on suspicion of helping infect computers with Trojan Horse programs sometimes known as "Zbot" or "ZeuS."

Police said the viruses are thought to have infected tens of thousands of computers worldwide, and one technology consultant described them as the "most notorious pieces of malware of recent times."

"This is one of the most frequent families of worms that we encounter," said Graham Cluley, a technology consultant with British security firm Sophos PLC. "The ferocity with which it's been spammed out on occasions has really hit our radar."

Cluley said the Zbot family of viruses first came to his attention in 2007. Since then it has periodically swept across the Internet, stealing personal information from computers across the world and feeding it back to cyber criminals.

The viruses are commonly known as Trojan Horses or Trojans because they sneak onto computers and attack them from the inside, harvesting millions of lines of data —including banking information, credit card numbers and social networking passwords.

Police said given the amount of information stolen "the potential financial gains to the culprits and losses to individuals and institutions are very substantial."

Cluley said it was impossible to know how much money had been lost to the viruses, adding that attacks were ongoing — including two big waves in the past week alone.

London police said the arrests were the first in Europe connected to the spread of Zbot, but it remains unclear exactly what role the Manchester pair are suspected of playing in the viruses' propagation.

Police said the two have since been released on bail. Suspects in Britain are rarely identified unless they've been charged.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Infection

- The viruses spread by sending emails or other messages from infected computers, impersonating banks, tax officials, credit card companies or even friends, enticing potential victims to click on a link that downloads the Trojan.

Russia **Now that's a high jump**

DMITRY LOVETSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A parkour practitioner jumps yesterday from an 18-metre high roof to a 14-metre high roof across a seven-metre wide gap in St. Petersburg, Russia. The jumper survived.

News in brief

BOOK RELEASE Hundreds of Sarah Palin fans lined up yesterday at a Michigan book store to get the chance to meet the former Alaska governor as she kicked off a national tour for her book Going Rogue. The memoir was released Tuesday, but has topped bestseller lists for weeks.

SHOOTING U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder says he was disturbed to learn of contacts between Fort Hood shooting suspect Nidal Hasan and a radical Muslim cleric in Yemen.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Israel breaks ground on new housing

Obama says such construction could compromise peace talks

Israel broke ground on a new housing complex for Jews in east Jerusalem yesterday, brushing off U.S. President Barack Obama's criticism that construction in the disputed part of the holy city undermines efforts to relaunch Mideast peace talks.

The groundbreaking came a day after Israel defied American, European and Palestinian demands to stop settlement activity by announcing it will press forward with construction of 900 apartments in another Jewish area in east Jerusalem.

Speaking to Fox News in Beijing yesterday, Obama criticized the plan to build hundreds of homes in Jerusalem's Gilo neighbourhood, saying such moves make it harder to achieve peace and embitter the Palestinians in a way he said could be dangerous. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Claims

- The Palestinians claim the West Bank and east Jerusalem — areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war — for their hoped-for state and have refused negotiations until Israel stops settlement construction in these areas. The Palestinians say the continued growth of settlements on land they claim will make it impossible for them to establish a viable country of their own.

China **Panda in training**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

In a photo from earlier this week, an 18-month-old panda bear is trained to walk upright to build strength ahead of the crucial mating season at a wild animal rescue and research centre in northwestern China's Shaanxi province.

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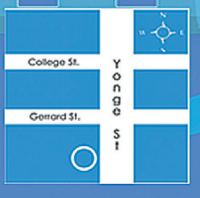

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Dutch town residents oppose plan to store CO2 underground

The Dutch government yesterday approved a pilot project to pump carbon dioxide into depleted gas fields beneath a town of 43,000 people as a way of reducing emissions blamed for global warming. Residents of Barendrecht, 18 kilometres from Rotterdam, fiercely oppose the plan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAYYID AZIM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

The U.S.-flagged cargo ship the Maersk Alabama was attacked by Somali pirates yesterday for the second time in seven months.

U.S. ship fends off pirates

Maersk Alabama attacked second time since April ordeal

Four Somali pirates in a skiff attacked the Maersk Alabama yesterday for the second time in seven months but were thwarted by guards on board the U.S.-flagged ship who fired off guns and a high-decibel noise device.

A U.S. surveillance plane was monitoring the ship as it continued to its destination on the Kenyan coast. Pirates hijacked the Maersk Alabama last April and took ship captain Richard Phillips hostage, holding him at gunpoint in a lifeboat for five days. Navy SEAL sharpshooters freed Phillips while killing three pirates in a daring nighttime attack.

Pirates have greatly increased their attacks in recent weeks after seasonal rains subsided. On Tuesday, a pirate said Somali hijackers had been paid $3.3 million for the release of 36 crew members from a Spanish vessel held for more than six weeks. The number of attacks this year rose to 306 up to September, surpassing the 293 throughout 2008.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Captain of hijacked ship dies

- A pirate said yesterday the captain of a ship hijacked Monday had died Tuesday night of wounds suffered during the hijacking. The Virgin Islands-owned chemical tanker the Theresa was taken Monday with 28 North Korean crew.

Thailand revisits claim over border temple

DISPUTE Thailand hopes some day to prove its claim to a historic border temple awarded to Cambodia by the World Court almost half a century ago, its justice minister says.

Justice Minister Pirapan Salirathavibhaga expressed his opinion on the controversy over the 11th-century Preah Vihear temple as Thailand's relations with its neighbour have become badly strained.

The temple sits on a cliff in a disputed zone between Thailand and Cambodia. It has been a source of tension and fuelled nationalist sentiments on both sides of the border for decades.

Yesterday, Cambodian villagers stabbed straw effigies of Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, saying his policies caused border tensions that hurt their livelihoods.

The Thai government is carrying out delicate diplomatic manoeuvring with Cambodia to try to obtain the release of a Thai citizen accused of spying. Relations with Cambodia have worsened lately because it hosted a visit by former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted by a 2006 military coup and is now a fugitive from justice.

The temple is easier to reach from the Thai side of the border. But because of the unrest, the Thai army has blocked access to the temple in recent months.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heritage site

- Last year, Thai-Cambodian relations soured when Bangkok first backed, then opposed, Cambodia's bid to have the temple declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. Some Thais believe the designation undermines their claims to a small area of surrounding land.

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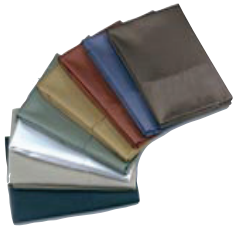

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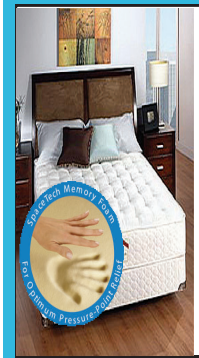

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BIO-FEN PLUS™ is a natural health product used in the treatment of hereditary androgenic alopecia *(AGA)* in adults ***(male or female pattern baldness.)*** It contains scientifically calculated proportions of extracts of fenugreek seeds, saw palmetto berries and flax lignans. Each are known to possess an inhibitor of the enzyme responsible for causing male or female pattern baldness. It also contains a mixture of B vitamins, folate and biotin to help metabolize these herbal extracts so that they are more bio-available, and to support the growth of strong and healthy hair.

What causes hereditary hair loss?

Each hair grows from a pocket in the skin called the hair follicle. During its growing phase, the follicle has a bulb-shaped bottom, the center of which is called the dermal papilla. The papilla is fed by very small blood vessels, which bring it food & oxygen and remove wastes. The papilla is highly sensitive to hormones and chemicals secreted by the body *(or ingested as a medicine)* which impacts hair growth.

It is believed that some individuals have a genetic predisposition to a receding hairline *(most common in men)* or hair/follicle thinning over larger areas of scalp *(more common in women)*. These conditions result from hormonal changes caused by an enzyme in the dermal papilla called 5-alpha-reductase. This enzyme breaks down the hormone testosterone into dihydrotestosterone *(DHT)*.

Over a period of time, an over abundance of DHT causes the hair follicle to degrade and shortens the active phase of the hair, eventually leading to thinner hair and eventual hair loss.

How does BIO-FEN PLUS™ *work?*

Specific compounds within the herbal extracts inhibit the 5-alpha-reductase *(and therefore reduce DHT)* to prevent or slow down the rate of hair loss. This process is the principle by which the prescription drugs such as Propecia *(finasteride)* work. However, BIO-FEN PLUS™ also contains additional compounds which remove excess cholesterol and testosterone – the building blocks of DHT.

BIO-FEN PLUS™ also contains vitamins to increase blood flow to the small capillaries that feed the hair roots, to deliver the active herbal compounds and remove waste. **Therefore, BIO-FEN PLUS™ provides a natural, safer alternative to expensive drugs, and/or expensive & painful hair transplants.** As with the prescription alternatives, results vary from person to person, and no one product will work for everyone.

How long must I use BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

BIO-FEN PLUS™ capsules are usually effective at stopping hair loss within the first two months. However, since healthy hair grows only about 1 cm each month, it may take up to three months before you notice that hair growth is increased or further hair loss is stopped.

Anyone experiencing new growth will see it within four to six months. Once results become apparent, some users are able to reduce their BIO-FEN PLUS™ supplement dose to one capsule every second or every third day. Some clients will continue to take BIO-FEN PLUS™ daily. Once you stop completely, however, your hair growth pattern will slowly go back to the point where you started.

How safe is BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

The ingredient combination in BIO-FEN PLUS™ is generally safe for most adults. However, the following cautions are advised:

Folic acid: Consult a health care practitioner if you are uncertain whether or not you are taking adequate vitamin B12, as folate supplementation can mask a Vitamin B12 deficiency.

Vitamin B3: Consult a health care practitioner prior to use if you have impaired liver function.

Vitamin B6: Consult a health care practitioner prior to use if you are taking levodopa.

What is the quality of BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

BIO-FEN PLUS™ is manufactured in Canada according to a quality assurance program called Good Manufacturing Practices *(GMP)*. This ensures that the ingredients are tested for their level of quality, potency & purity, prior to production and again prior to sale.

See our website to locate your nearest Health Food Store or Pharmacy that offers BIO-FEN PLUS™ and other quality products from Hair Grow Technology. If you have any questions or comments about our products that target hair loss and support the growth of strong, healthy hair, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Each BIO-FEN PLUS™ *capsule contains (mg/capsule):*

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Flax lignans, standardized to 20% secoisolariciresinol diglucoside *(SDG)*	100 mg
D-calcium pantothenate *(Vitamin B5)*	10.40 mg
Niacinamide *(Vitamin B3)*	10.25 mg
Pyridoxine HCl *(Vitamin B6)*	2.00 mg
Riboflavin *(Vitamin B2)*	1.58 mg
Folic acid	0.095 mg
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Non-medicinal ingredients: inert microcrystalline cellulose and vegetable-based magnesium stearate in a veggie-based capsule.

Recommended adult dose: one capsule per day

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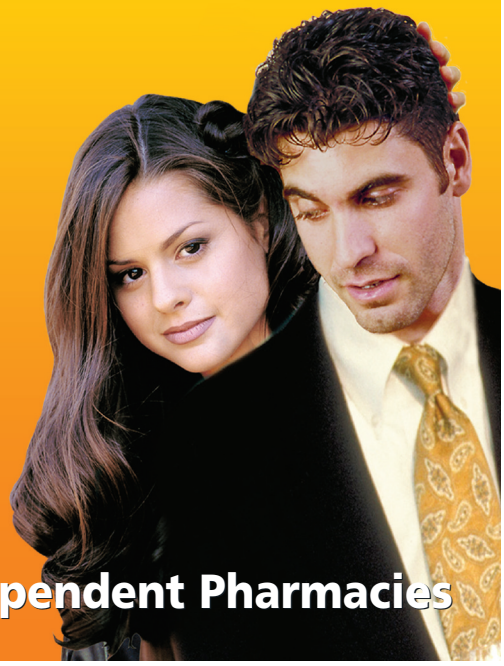

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Comment

Private versus public relationships

Single. In a Relationship. Engaged. It's Complicated. Single.

Two acquaintances got engaged. My best friend from the third grade got married. And a former colleague got divorced — for the second time. I know these things, not because I've spoken to them recently. I know these things because of Facebook.

I'm fascinated by what people choose to share about their romantic lives on the Internet. Some are coy, secretive. Others define themselves by their relationship or blogging ceaselessly about significant others.

It's another kind of PDA (Public Display of Affection). Changing your Facebook status to In a Relationship is the new Making Out on Park Benches.

But once you've gone public and shared your happiness with several hundred of your closest friends, what happens if your relationship ends?

I've only met Lauren White a couple of times, but I feel like I've known her forever. Her blog, Raymi The Minx (www.raymitheminx.com), has amassed an impressive following over the years. On my computer screen, she is a stunning, unsmiling woman who painstakingly documents minutiae like new outfits, found objects and elaborate meals. In person, she is sweet and smiley, funny and friendly. Her partner Phil was the handsome photographer who made her into his muse. Online, they appeared a perfect hipster power couple.

When I discovered that Raymi and Phil had recently ended their engagement, I felt like I had learned of the breakup of two close friends. And given the scads of supportive emails that she received and posted on her site, I wasn't alone.

Phil and Raymi were funloving and photogenic online, but real life was another matter:

"we acted beautifully together for everyone else but us. while alone it was stretches of silences for hours in our own little online worlds until it became dark then we'd get ready and go out to whateverthe f— was going on that night."

The Ballad of Raymi and Phil can be taken as a cautionary tale. In our full-disclosure world, we should be mindful that sharing intimate details of our lives means that we will have an audience when it all falls apart.

Go ahead and flaunt your relationship online. Just make sure it's as great in real life as it looks on paper (or in pixels). Because it's better for you to be genuinely happy than for us to believe you are.

Sofi Papamarko is a 20-something writer based in Toronto. Her heroes include Desmond Morris and Nancy Sinatra.

Views

Imagine a mobilization against sex assaults

"What if we did as much to prevent rape as we do to prevent H1N1?"

This question was posed recently by a blogger from Bitch, one of my favourite feminist magazines, and, for some reason, I can't stop thinking about it.

The blogger in question, Meg Stone, asked her readers to imagine a world where the government, the media and the health-care system mobilized as loudly against sexual assault as they're doing against swine flu. Think about it: Coast-to-coast public education campaigns! Daily news reports! Pissed-off citizens determined to do everything they can to protect themselves and their loved ones!

It may seem odd — scandalous, even — to draw a comparison between the H1N1 pandemic and sexual assault. But they share some common ground.

On the most basic level, both put public safety at risk. Reducing the prevalence of either requires a change in public behaviour and cultural norms. And as Amnesty International argues in its Stop Violence Against Women campaign, "Violence against women and girls is a global pandemic."

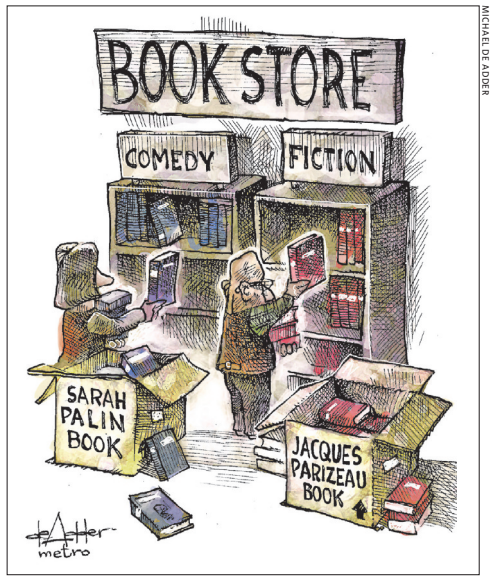
So, can you picture it? An alternate reality where rape prevention is at the top of the agenda? Probably not. Even though statistics tell us that one in four Canadian women will be sexually assaulted during her lifetime, this is not typically seen as a health and safety crisis.

The shame and stigma associated with sexual assault means we still don't talk about it and most victims don't report it.

Instead of Stone's vision of preventative measures on the front page, the news we hear is disturbing and disempowering.

Unlike H1N1, sexual assault has been part of our world for so long that we don't think we can fight it. Well, we certainly won't by remaining apathetic. While I'm not naïve enough to expect the large-scale mobilization Stone dreams about, she provides a welcome reminder that change is worth fighting for.

Melinda Mattos is a Toronto-based writer, editor and co-founder of feminist teen magazine Shameless. Visit www.shamelessmag.com



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Inflation rears its head again

Canadians paid more for food, clothes and tuition last month as the inflation rate ticked higher for the first time in five months.

Statistics Canada said yesterday the annual inflation rate jumped a full point to edge above zero at 0.1 per cent in October, reversing an unusual situation that had existed since May where overall prices were lower than a year earlier. The data showed we were paying less for gas, automobiles and hotels.

And it's unlikely the inflation rate will fall below zero again for some time. For months, analysts have said Canada's negative inflation situation was not worrisome because it was based solely on one phenomenon that was almost inevitably fated to be reversed — last summer's record gasoline prices.

Statistics Canada noted that excluding energy prices, Canada's annual inflation rate would have been 1.4 per cent.

Six out of the eight major components were higher last month than a year before, including food, clothing, household operations and furnishings, health and personal care, recreation and alcohol and tobacco. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Inflation in cities
Previous month in brackets

St. John's, N.L.	-0.1 (-0.4)
Halifax	-0.3 (-0.4)
Saint John, N.B.	0.8 (-0.3)
Quebec City	0.7 (0.0)
Montreal	0.7 (0.0)
Ottawa	0.4 (-1.0)
Toronto	**0.3 (-1.0)**
Winnipeg	0.0 (-0.3)
Regina	0.7 (0.6)
Saskatoon	0.3 (0.2)
Edmonton	0.4 (-0.5)
Calgary	0.1 (-1.2)
Vancouver	-0.6 (-1.0)

In the provinces and territories

N.L.	-0.4 (-0.9)	Saskatchewan	0.3 (0.2)
P.E.I.	-0.8 (-1.4)	Alberta	0.1 (-1.1)
Nova Scotia	-0.4 (-0.8)	British Columbia	-0.6 (-1.2)
New Brunswick	0.5 (-0.4)	Whitehorse, Yukon	-1.3 (-1.0)
Quebec	0.5 (0.3)	Yellowknife, N.W.T.	0.0 (-0.57
Ontario	**0.2 (-1.1)**	Iqaluit, Nunavut	0.5 (1.2)
Manitoba	0.1 (-0.3)		

Amex Late? No rewards for you

DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

A traveller uses a Delta Airlines credit card to buy an e-ticket. American Express is sending notices to holders of its cobranded cards with Delta Air Lines, JetBlue Airways, Hilton Hotels and Starwood Hotels & Resorts that, beginning January, rewards won't be transferred to loyalty accounts with those partners if the cardholder is late paying the bill.

TSX closes higher despite analyst downgrading RIM

MARKETS The Toronto stock market closed slightly higher yesterday as gains in consumer and financial stocks competed with a decline in gold stocks — despite bullion hitting another record close — and an analyst downgrade of Research In Motion Ltd.

The S&P/TSX composite index closed at a fresh 2009 high, up 22.69 points at 11,652.69.

The tech sector declined 1.37 per cent after BMO Capital Markets said Blackberry maker RIM faces increased competition as consumers opt for less expensive phones. RIM gave back $1.28 to $63.25. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Business in brief

MINING Shares in Toronto-based Moly Mines Ltd. surged 24 per cent to close at $1.05 yesterday after it said the Australian Foreign Investment Review Board has approved an investment by the Australian subsidiary of a Chinese company. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Data theft in Spain prompts German credit card recall
German banks are calling back tens of thousands of credit cards over security concerns after allegations of data theft in Spain. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No irrational pricing: Metro

'We don't see an ugly, war-type environment,' says CEO

Competition is heating up ahead of the Christmas shopping season, but grocery giant Metro Inc. doesn't foresee the return of "irrational" pricing.

"We don't see an ugly, war-type environment," chief executive Eric La Fleche said yesterday during a conference call.

"Competition has heated up a bit … but we don't see going into Christmas any irrational behaviour. It will be competitive as it always is."

Faced with very low inflation, supermarket retailers are offering low prices in a bid to lure consumers into their stores and increase revenues.

Effective merchandising and ongoing efforts to improve its Ontario operations allowed Metro to boost profits and expand revenues in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2009.

The Montreal-based company reported net income yesterday of $84.4 million or 77 cents per share for the quarter ended Sept. 26. That was up from year-ago profit of $72.5 million or 65 cents per share.

After excluding non-recurring costs of $2.3 million to convert some Ontario supermarkets to the Metro banner, the company posted adjusted net earnings of $85.9 million. This marked an 18.5 per cent increase from the year before.

Adjusted earnings per share were up 20 per cent to 78 cents.

Irene Nattel of RBC Capital Markets said Metro enjoyed a "strong end to a good year."

The fourth-quarter results reflected productivity gains in Ontario, apparent modest market share gains in its core Quebec market and likely the last of the year's inflation benefits.

"As we move into fiscal 2010, despite the reversal in the pricing environment, Metro's remerchandising and productivity initiatives should enable it to continue to generate solid earnings growth," she wrote in a report.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Grocery giant Metro Inc. boosted fourth-quarter profits through effective merchandising, low prices and improved operations. Competition has increased leading up to Christmas, but the grocer doesn't see any irrational behaviour on the horizon.

"Competition has heated up a bit … but we don't see going into Christmas any irrational behaviour. It will be competitive as it always is." Eric La Fleche, CEO Metro

Sears Canada sees profits shrink

RETAIL Sears Canada Inc. says a decrease in same-store sales due to low consumer confidence caused its profit to shrink from year-ago levels in the third quarter.

The retailer reported net earnings of $47.1 million or 44 cents per share for the quarter ended Oct. 31.

That was down from a year-ago profit of $59.3 million or 55 cents per share.

Revenues totalled $1.3 billion, down from $1.4 billion last year.

Same store sales, a measure of sales at stores open at least a year, decreased 6.3 per cent during the quarter, but the company added that total expenses for the quarter went down by 11.5 per cent from a year ago.

Sears also noted there was an unusual item gain in last year's third quarter of $1.1 million, which had boosted earnings in 2008.

The Toronto-based retailer says it will be pushing its holiday season products in the fourth quarter to boost customer traffic and profitability.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Recession woes

- Sears said its stores continued to feel the impact of retracted consumer spending as a result of increasing unemployment in a recession.

Business in brief

LOAN Timminco Ltd. announced yesterday it will receive $10.6 million in financing from AMG Advanced Metallurgical Group to support its turnaround plan. AMG will provide a $5-million US loan to Timminco's subsidiary Becancour Silicon Inc. in exchange for a convertible senior subordinated promissory note. The convertible note will have a maturity date of Jan. 3, 2011. The transactions are expected to close this year. Timminco produces silicon metal for the aluminum and solar industries.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Canadian wins MLS honour

Pat Onstad of the Houston Dynamo was named the inaugural winner of Major League Soccer's Degree Men Save of the Year award yesterday. Onstad, 41, of Vancouver was honoured for a double save on a penalty kick against the Colorado Rapids. Voting for the award was conducted by fans. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports

F1 champ switches teams

Formula One champion Jenson Button, left, signed with McLaren yesterday, teaming him with Lewis Hamilton to give the English team a potent lineup for next season featuring the two most recent title holders. McLaren said Button signed a "multi-year deal" after leaving constructors champion Brawn GP in the wake of its takeover by Mercedes-Benz earlier this week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Injury-depleted Utah Jazz hold on to beat Raps

Rookie Eric Maynor scored 11 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter and helped the Utah Jazz hang on for a 104-91 victory over the Toronto Raptors last night in Salt Lake City.

The Jazz let an 18-point lead slip to one early in the fourth before pulling away for their ninth straight win over the Raptors.

Carlos Boozer had 22 points and 18 rebounds and Deron Williams added 20 points and nine assists for the Jazz, who had only nine players available because of injuries.

Chris Bosh scored 32 points and pulled down 17 rebounds to lead the Raptors, who lost their third straight and went 1-3 on a four-game Western Conference road trip.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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'A growth thing'

Slump should be expected: Schenn's junior coach

Luke Schenn says he will get through this. At least with his words.

It's his body that's speaking a different language.

Off the ice, Schenn is doing everything right — first to practice, last to leave the ice, long workouts, listening to coaches, taking advice.

On the ice, it's like a different Schenn. It seems his every mistake ends up in the net. His ice time is diminished. His confidence shattered.

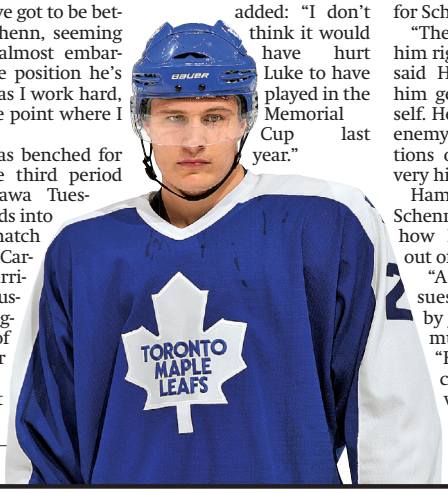
"I know I've got to be better," said Schenn, seeming sullen and almost embarrassed at the position he's in. "As long as I work hard, I'll get to the point where I want to be."

Schenn was benched for most of the third period against Ottawa Tuesday, and heads into tonight's match against the Carolina Hurricanes a minus-6 and averaging 15:05 of ice time per game.

"I'm not satisfied with how things have gone," said Schenn. "I have high expectations for myself. I've been in a rut before in junior. The only way to get out of it is work hard."

The question is raised: Should Schenn have gone back to junior last year?

"I don't think so," said Bruce Hamilton, GM of Schenn's Kelowna Rockets, citing the fact Schenn took a regular shift and averaged about 20 minutes of ice time as a Leaf rookie as the reason. But then Hamilton added: "I don't think it would have hurt Luke to have played in the Memorial Cup last year."



Luke Schenn

Hamilton, who recruited Schenn as a 15 year old, said he's also not surprised to see Schenn, or any young player, take a step back in their second season.

"People have to remember, he's 20 years old. This is just the way this works," said Hamilton. "When you take these guys at this age, very few are like they are in the second year the way they were in the first year.

"It's a growth thing. Expectations are higher."

Hamilton also had advice for Schenn and Leaf fans.

"The biggest thing for him right now is patience," said Hamilton. "Don't let him get eaten up by himself. He'll be his own worst enemy because his expectations of his own play are very high."

Hamilton remembers Schenn's ruts in junior and how he worked himself out of them.

"A lot of times his issues were compounded by just trying to do too much," said Hamilton. "He would get focused that points were a big thing. Really, his game is not that."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Theoren Fleury says he was sexually abused by his junior hockey coach Graham James.

Fleury to file charges: Report

CRIME Theo Fleury says he wants to pursue charges against Graham James, the junior hockey coach he alleges sexually assaulted him as a teenager, but it may not be entirely up to the former NHL forward.

The New York Post reported this week that Fleury told the newspaper he will indeed file criminal charges against James.

"I've hired Hersh Wolch, who might be the best criminal attorney in North America, and he's going through the process of doing the necessary preparation," Fleury told the Post.

But Fleury's own publicity company cautions it's still early in the process.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

NFL Ronnie Brown's season is over for the Miami Dolphins. Miami's leading rusher was placed on injured reserve yesterday because of a foot injury — his second season-ending injury in three years.

NFL The 2-7 Oakland Raiders benched former No. 1 overall pick JaMarcus Russell yesterday, handing the starting job to journeyman Bruce Gradkowski for the foreseeable future.

RUGBY A pair of second-half tries from Araba Chintoh and Cheryl Phillips gave Canada a 14-5 victory over France in a women's rugby match yesterday, snapping an 11-year winless streak against the French.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Offer subject to change without notice. *LG Eve available with new activation on any 3-yr. term voice and data plan. Other devices featured available with new activation on any 3-yr. term voice and data plan having min. combined monthly service fee of $45. © 2009 Rogers Wireless.

Runner stripped of gold medal from Beijing Olympics

Fifteen months after the Beijing Olympics, Bahraini middle-distance runner Rashid Ramzi was stripped of his 1,500-metre gold medal yesterday and four other athletes were disqualified because of doping at the Games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blue Jays hike some season ticket costs

After the Blue Jays hobbled to a 75-87 record in 2009, longtime subscriber Mark Woitzik figured the price of his season tickets would hold steady.

Instead, two weeks ago the club called to warn him, and Tuesday he received confirmation in the mail that the price of his seats was about to increase.

Last season, Woitzik, a lawyer from Whitby, paid $3,823.92 for a pair of season tickets, but the renewal notice said the same two seats would now cost $5,964.84.

That's a 56 per cent increase, and coupled with a dismal on-field outlook for 2010 it has Woitzik ready to cancel his season tickets.

"I understand they have to cost-cut. (But) for the people who have been around through thick and thin, it's annoying. It's frustrating," said Woitzik, a season ticket holder since 2001.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Sports in brief

OLYMPICS BMW has signed up as the latest top-tier domestic sponsor of the 2012 London Olympics. The German carmaker was unveiled yesterday as the official automotive sponsor of the games in a deal worth an estimated $67 million US.

NFL Cleveland Browns quarterback Brady Quinn has been fined by the NFL for his chop block on Baltimore's Terrell Suggs. Quinn received a letter from the league yesterday but would not disclose the size of his fine. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	PT
d-Washington	21	13	4	4	30
d-New Jersey	19	14	5	0	28
d-Buffalo	17	12	4	1	25
Pittsburgh	21	14	7	0	28
Philadelphia	17	11	5	1	23
N.Y. Rangers	21	11	9	1	23
N.Y. Islanders	21	8	6	7	23
Tampa Bay	18	8	4	6	22
Atlanta	17	10	6	1	21
Ottawa	18	9	6	3	21
Boston	20	8	8	4	20
Montreal	21	10	11	0	20
Florida	18	7	9	2	16
TORONTO	**19**	**3**	**11**	**5**	**11**
Carolina	20	3	12	5	11

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	PT
d-San Jose	23	14	5	4	32
d-Colorado	21	13	5	3	29
d-Chicago	19	12	5	2	26
Los Angeles	22	13	7	2	28
Calgary	19	12	5	2	26
Columbus	19	11	6	2	24
Detroit	18	10	5	3	23
Dallas	19	8	5	6	22
Phoenix	20	11	9	0	22
Vancouver	21	11	10	0	22
Nashville	19	10	8	1	21
Edmonton	21	8	10	3	19
St. Louis	18	6	8	4	16
Minnesota	20	7	11	2	16
Anaheim	19	6	10	3	15

YESTERDAY

Florida at Buffalo
Dallas at Detroit
Phoenix at Minnesota
Colorado at Edmonton
Philadelphia at Los Angeles

TODAY

TORONTO at Carolina
Boston at Atlanta
Pittsburgh at Ottawa
Phoenix at St. Louis
New Jersey at Nashville
Columbus at Dallas
Chicago at Calgary
Tampa Bay at Anaheim

d - division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE
ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	8	3	.727	-
TORONTO	**5**	**6**	**.455**	**3**
Philadelphia	4	6	.400	3.5
New York	1	9	.100	6.5
New Jersey	0	11	.000	8

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Atlanta	9	2	.818	-
Orlando	8	3	.727	1
Miami	7	3	.700	1.5
Charlotte	3	7	.300	5.5
Washington	2	7	.222	6

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Cleveland	8	3	.727	-
Indiana	5	3	.625	1.5
Milwaukee	5	3	.625	1.5
Chicago	5	4	.556	2
Detroit	5	5	.500	2.5

WESTERN CONFERENCE
SOUTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Dallas	8	3	.727	-
Houston	6	5	.545	2
San Antonio	4	4	.500	2.5
New Orleans	4	8	.333	4.5
Memphis	2	8	.200	5.5

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Denver	8	3	.727	-
Portland	8	4	.667	.5
Oklahoma City	6	5	.545	2
Utah	4	6	.400	3.5
Minnesota	1	10	.091	7

PACIFIC DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Phoenix	10	2	.833	-
L.A. Lakers	7	3	.700	2
Sacramento	5	4	.556	3.5
L.A. Clippers	4	8	.333	6
Golden State	3	7	.300	6

YESTERDAY

TORONTO at Utah
Miami at Atlanta
New York at Indiana
Oklahoma City at Orlando
Cleveland at Washington
Charlotte at Philadelphia
Golden State at Boston
New Jersey at Milwaukee
L.A. Clippers at Memphis
Houston at Minnesota
San Antonio at Dallas
Detroit at Portland

TODAY

Phoenix at New Orleans
Utah at San Antonio
Chicago at L.A. Lakers

NFL

AFC
EAST

	W	L	T	PCT
New England	6	3	0	.667
Miami	4	5	0	.444
N.Y. Jets	4	5	0	.444
Buffalo	3	6	0	.333

SOUTH

	W	L	T	PCT
Indianapolis	9	0	0	1.000
Jacksonville	5	4	0	.556
Houston	5	4	0	.556
Tennessee	3	6	0	.333

NORTH

	W	L	T	PCT
Cincinnati	7	2	0	.778
Pittsburgh	6	3	0	.667
Baltimore	5	4	0	.556
Cleveland	1	8	0	.111

WEST

	W	L	T	PCT
Denver	6	3	0	.667
San Diego	6	3	0	.667
Kansas City	2	7	0	.222
Oakland	2	7	0	.222

NFC
EAST

	W	L	T	PCT
Dallas	6	3	0	.667
Philadelphia	5	4	0	.556
N.Y. Giants	5	4	0	.556
Washington	3	6	0	.333

SOUTH

	W	L	T	PCT
New Orleans	9	0	0	1.000
Atlanta	5	4	0	.556
Carolina	4	5	0	.444
Tampa Bay	1	8	0	.111

NORTH

	W	L	T	PCT
Minnesota	8	1	0	.889
Green Bay	5	4	0	.556
Chicago	4	5	0	.444
Detroit	1	8	0	.111

WEST

	W	L	T	PCT
Arizona	6	3	0	.667
San Francisco	4	5	0	.444
Seattle	3	6	0	.333
St. Louis	1	8	0	.111

TODAY

Miami at Carolina

SUNDAY

Cleveland at Detroit
Atlanta at N.Y. Giants
Washington at Dallas
San Francisco at Green Bay
Indianapolis at Baltimore
Pittsburgh at Kansas City
New Orleans at Tampa Bay
Buffalo at Jacksonville
Seattle at Minnesota
Arizona at St. Louis
N.Y. Jets at New England
San Diego at Denver
Cincinnati at Oakland
Philadelphia at Chicago

MONDAY

Tennessee at Houston

CFL

SUNDAY
EASTERN FINAL
B.C. at Montreal

WESTERN FINAL
Calgary at Saskatchewan

SUNDAY, NOV. 29
GREY CUP
AT CALGARY
East vs. West champions

Read Kids' Metro! *Special edition out on Friday, 20th*

NEXT FRIDAY, CHILDREN WILL RULE METRO

WORLD PEACE, ECOLOGY AND HAPPINESS AS SEEN BY KIDS FROM 4 CONTINENTS

On Friday, November 20th, it's Kids Day at Metro! We're celebrating the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the United Nations. Read about the leaders of the future: and find out what Canadian kids would do if they ruled the world. Also an exclusive interview with Annie Lennox on her children campaign.

metro

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For the cat lover
Why not top your gift with this Brown Cat on Green Mitten? This kitten ornament is available for $6.99 at Hallmark, hallmark.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

HOLIDAY

Shopping Guide

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Present perfect

Our 14-page Holiday Shopping Guide brings you all the ideas you need to get a jump on this year's gift-giving.

Tech Pg 38

Choose from all things wired and wonderful.

Give back Pg 44

Consider gifts that make a difference in the world.

36 days until Dec. 25

Catch our next gift guide on Nov. 26.

Show your pride
Cheer on our Canadian athletes at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games with these red mittens, $10. All net proceeds will go towards supporting Canadian athletes. Available at vancouver2010.com/redmittens. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holiday Shopping Guide

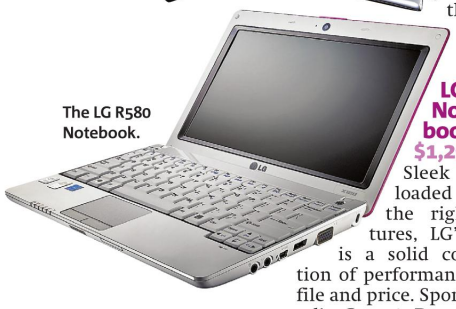
Gifts for the computer lover

From notebooks to photo printers, there are plenty of crowd-pleasing options

The Dell Adamo XPS.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Let's face it, few gifts are ever as awesome as a new computer and there are so many to choose from. Here are Metro's picks for computing goodness this holiday season:



The LG R580 Notebook.

LG R580 Notebook
$1,299

Sleek and loaded with the right features, LG's R580 is a solid combination of performance, profile and price. Sporting Intel's Core 2 Duo processor, 4 gigabytes of system memory and a powerful Nvidia GeForce 130M GT graphics card with 1 gigabyte of dedicated video memory, this lightweight and lean laptop is surprisingly capable in the entertainment department as well as making sure your heavyweight business presentations come to life. An LED backlight provides better viewing and saves power and the 15.6-inch widescreen is the right size to maintain portability without sacrificing visual quality.

The Samsung N120 Notebook.

Toshiba's Qosmio X500.

Toshiba Qosmio X500
$2,199

With the flood of new games getting released this season, you're going to need some heavy computing power to make your headshots count and your friends jealous at LAN parties. Enter the Toshiba Qosmio, a monster of a system designed for hardcore gaming (and helping develop strong legs if you ever decide to carry it). With an 18.4-inch screen, new Intel Core i7 processor, a one-terabyte drive and Nvidia's GeForce GTS 250M graphics card with 1 gigabyte of lightning-fast DDR5 memory under the hood, this thing really cooks and its heft will probably stop a real-life bullet to boot. A built-in Blu-Ray drive and HDTV connectivity make it just as fun in downtime.

Dell Adamo XPS
$1,999

Dell's answer to the Macbook Air in both style and substance, the Adamo XPS is undoubtedly impressive. Less than a centimetre thick and encased in a sexy machined-aluminum chassis, this laptop aims for discerning users with big pockets. For comparison, this machine is about half the thickness of Apple's already paper-thin Macbook Air. With a 13.4-inch screen and weighing barely three pounds, you'll be hard-pressed to find a slimmer, tote-able computer. Cooler still, when opened the keyboard rises up for ergonomic typing and sports aluminum keycaps. Built-in wireless connectivity and Windows 7 as standard complete this very impressive offering.

Samsumg N120 Notebook
$429

Simple yet stylish, Samsung's N120 is possibly the most natural-feeling mini-laptop out there. The large, raised keyboard is very easy to type on and the clean, single-tone design is classically attractive. With all the standard system elements you'd expect from a netbook packed into the small, thin case, the N120 sets a benchmark for good design and usability in the 10-inch laptop market.

Putting it on paper

Despite the digital world taking command of our lives, there's no substitute for the portability and satisfying touch of paper when you want to keep something in hard copy, so here are our picks for printers this season:

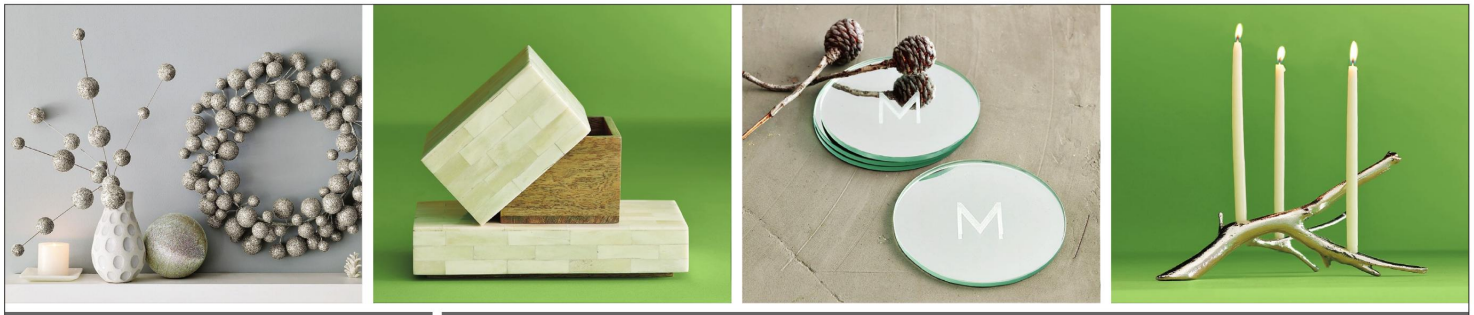
The Epson Artisan 810 All-in-one Printer includes modes for creating colour book pages and even for making personalized note paper using your own photos. The HP Photosmart A646 Compact Photo Printer, below, lets you edit and print high-quality photos in a small, portable package.

Epson Artisan 810 All-in-one Printer
$299

A top-end printer with a plethora of creative modes, the Artisan offers some innovative and convenient options for printing. Unique features includes modes for creating colouring book pages and even for making personalized note paper using your own photos — now you can write memos on your favourite, hopefully tasteful, vacation photo. The printer also has a built-in Wi-Fi connection to let you print directly from any wireless source in your home including other computers or even your iPhone.

HP Photosmart A646 Compact Photo Printer
$179

Cute as a button yet still powerful and fun to use, HP's little wonder lets you edit and print high-quality photos in a small, portable package. Create custom borders, photo captions and text using the 3.45-inch touchscreen and print directly from Bluetooth devices like mobile phones for printing on the go.



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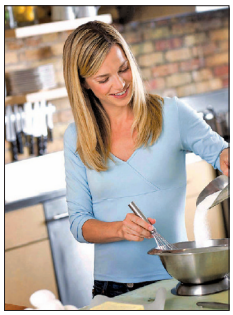
Sweet treats

Make everyone on your list happy with Le Chocolat Holiday Collection, $9.99. These hand-crafted 100 per cent Belgian chocolates are available at Shoppers Drug Mart (shoppersdrugmart.ca). METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holiday Shopping Guide

Baked goods great gifts



Get your kids involved when baking, Trish Magwood says.

It's that time of year again — time to give back to the people in your life who have made a difference.

With so many people to thank, it can be difficult to come up with an appropriate gift for everyone.

But the old saying still rings true: It's the thought that counts. Making your own gift is still considered by many as the most thoughtful form of giving.

When you present a homemade gift, the receiver knows you took the time to carefully craft a gift just for them.

If you're unsure of what to make, a guaranteed hit with almost anyone is a dessert that can be enjoyed with friends and family throughout the season.

"If you are baking for a neighbour, babysitter or teacher, getting your children involved in the process is a great way to spend some quality time together in the kitchen," says Trish Magwood, celebrity chef and mother of three.

"From picking the recipe to mixing up ingredients and putting on the finishing touches, kids love to get their hands dirty and taste the fruits of their labour!"

To ensure your family has a great time in the kitchen, choose a "kid-friendly" recipe that incorporates some familiar ingredients for your young sous chefs.

NEWS CANADA

Chocolate Truffles

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pkg white chocolate chips
- ¼ cup butter, softened
- 1 cup Rice Krispies Vanilla Flavour
- 1¼ cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

METHOD:

1 Melt white chocolate chips and butter in medium bowl in microwave or over saucepan of boiling water. Stir until smooth. Let cool at room temperature (30 mins).

2 Form white chocolate mixture into 2.5 cm balls. Roll in cereal, pressing it into truffles to coat. Roll in palms to re-shape. Refrigerate 30 minutes.

3 Melt semi-sweet chocolate. Dip prepared balls in chocolate to coat. Lift out with fork. Place on waxed paper lined baking sheet. Let cool 1 hour.

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Holiday shopping doesn't have to be stressful for men.

Help men make most of shopping

It's a well-known fact: Most men hate holiday shopping. Here's a list of tips from RedFlagDeals.com that will help men everywhere stay sane during the craziest shopping time of the year.

Plan your attack: When shopping, make like a ninja — get in and out before anyone knows you are even there. If you must go to the mall, prepare in advance. You should know what you're looking for, how much it costs, and where to get it before you leave home. When shopping online, shipping times vary, so expect orders to take at least a week to arrive.

Tune out: Bring your MP3 player with you. Your music may not be festive, but at least it won't drive you crazy.

Shop online: You'll save money, avoid the crowds, and find multiple gift ideas with the click of a button. You'll save a lot of time by comparing price, availability, and reviews of products on the Internet.

Support the trend: If you're stuck for ideas, find out what other people are getting your shopping target and get them something that compliments that gift. Is someone getting them skis? Buy them ski goggles and ski wax.

NEWS CANADA

For the hostess
Bring her this three-piece Christmas tea towel set in a useable breadbasket from Canadian Tire (canadiantire.ca or1-866-746-7287). The towels, $16.99, come in three colours and the centre towel has a seasonal icon stitched into it. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tips to go green this holiday season

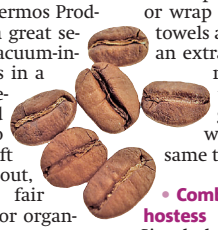
At holiday time, along with buying for close friends and family, it is often customary to buy small gifts for a multitude of others as well — teachers, hosts, babysitters — you name it.

And while small gifts are just as thoughtful, they can sometimes be more difficult to choose. You want the recipient to like it, use it, or eat it; all without causing too much waste or impact on the environment.

Don't fear. There are lots of gift ideas out there that are not only superb items to give, but are environmentally friendly choices as well. It just takes some creativity and some thinking outside the holiday box.

To help with your holiday gift list this year, here are some great — and green — gift suggestions:

• **Forget the traditional coffee mug for the teacher.** Instead, give a sturdy insulated travel mug that will keep their coffee or tea warm for hours while they're in the classroom. Canadian Thermos Products makes a great selection of vacuum-insulated mugs in a variety of designs and styles. And to make the gift really stand out, add some fair trade coffee or organic tea inside.



• **Baked goods, jams or preserves, and other homemade items are always appreciated.** Dress them up in charming jars or wrap them in new tea towels and you're adding an extra gift that can be reused time and time again; foregoing wasteful wrapping at the same time.

• **Combine pot-luck and hostess gifts into one.** Simply bring your food in one of the new insulated grocery bags that are available. This way your food stays hot or cold and you're giving a gift that will be used countless times.

Jams or preserves can make a great eco-friendly holiday gift.

• **Instead of a customary bottle of wine,** give a reusable container filled with delicious mulled wine or other hot beverage. This is a great way to warm up on cold winter nights.

NEWS CANADA

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Planning ahead when sending packages will save you money.

Ensure you send your packages on time

How you send packages to your loved ones is just as important as what you send them, according to Canada Post.

"Starting early will save money and take some of the stress out of the frenzied holiday season," says Marc Smith, director of product management for Canada Post. "But no matter when you're ready to send your gifts and cards, Canada Post has a service that will get them there by Dece. 24."

Ready early?
Regular parcel services are the most economical way to ensure holiday packages arrive before Santa. Here are the mailing deadlines:

- Dec. 1: To the U.S.
- Dec. 11: Within Canada

Need more time?
If it's taken you a little longer to find that special gift, then Xpresspost is the service for you. The mailing deadlines are:

- Dec. 7: Worldwide (but Dec. 1 for Africa and Central/South America)
- Dec. 14: To the U.S.
- Dec. 22: Within Canada

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- Dec. 17: Worldwide destinations; available to select countries only. Check with your post office for details.
- Dec. 21: To the U.S.
- Dec. 23: Within Canada

NEWS CANADA

All wrapped up

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Holiday Shopping Guide

Call of Duty a blockbuster

This holiday season's biggest entertainment blockbuster likely will be a sequel to a popular franchise, with jarring depictions of war and an intricate story of good versus evil. It could easily rake in more than last year's record $155-million US opening weekend for The Dark Knight.

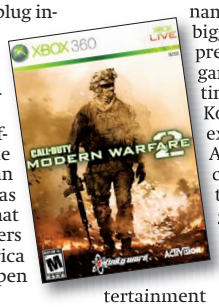
Devoted gamers say Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2 sets the benchmark for striking realism.

But this blockbuster is not a movie.

It is Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2, a video game that Activision Blizzard Inc. released last week. Fans worldwide are expected to spend at least half a billion dollars on the game this week.

That would at least match last year's Grand Theft Auto IV, which was the most successful video game release in history and might have been the top entertainment launch ever.

To fans, who refer to it as COD, the game sets the benchmark for stunning cinematography and striking realism, with troops of elite soldiers hunting down targets in South America, Russia, Kazakhstan and Afghanistan. Players typically plug into an online community, moving in teams to hunt down enemy snipers.



To retailers suffering through the recession, it's an early Christmas gift, a product that may get consumers in North America and Europe to open their wallets.

To detractors, it represents everything that is wrong with the billion-dollar video gaming industry: Blood-soaked images of warfare that they say pose a risk to the mental health of children and even some adults who may not be able to tear themselves away.

The release comes at an awkward time, just days after 13 people were killed and 29 wounded in a mass shooting at Fort Hood, Texas. An army psychiatrist is suspected as the gunman.

Call of Duty carries a rating of "M," meaning the content is suitable for those ages 17 and older. Made for the Sony PlayStation 3 and the Microsoft Xbox, it retails for about $60.

The Internet buzzed about the game all day last Tuesday, and there was no shortage of hyperbole.

As pre-orders topped 1.6 million, Amazon officially named COD the biggest selling pre-order video game of all time. Robert Kotick, chief executive of Activision, crowed that the shooter game is likely to be "one of the largest entertainment launches of any media of all time."

There's no question that the video-gaming industry is massive. It was worth an estimated $14.7 billion US in the United States last year, surpassing the $9.6 billion movie industry.

Investment banking firm Janco Partners in Denver, Colo., estimated the game would sell as many as 4.6 million units the first day. That would beat last year's blockbuster Grand Theft Auto IV, which sold 3.6 million units on the first day.

Through the rest of the year, the COD tally could swell to 11.1 million units, said entertainment software analyst Mike Hickey. That doesn't include revenue from the used or rental market.

Gaming's popularity is not surprising given the quality of what's out there, Hickey said.

"Just think of one of your favourite movies, and think about what it would be like to play it through as one of the characters. That's what gaming is offering today."

Best Buy Canada has taken thousands of pre-orders online and in stores, said marketing manager Mary Ann McKenzie. "This is absolutely the biggest gaming release of the year," she said.

"It absolutely drives traffic for us, and it drives it in nice and early in the holiday season."

In a recession, "anything that creates that sense of excitement that consumers haven't felt for some months is just great. The response is like, 'Recession be damned. I'm getting it.'"

In the U.K. on Monday, the Labour Party denounced the portrayal of violence in the game and called for the government to enact measures to prevent sales to minors.

In all, about 28 million Call of Duty games have been sold in the United States, with each instalment doing better at launch than the previous one, said NPD Group analyst Anita Frazier. Optimism about the latest title led Activision to reaffirm its outlook for 2009 last week. It expects more than $2 billion in revenue for the current quarter — roughly half of the year's total.

Wedbush Morgan analyst Michael Pachter estimates Activision is spending as much as $50 million to market the game, including TV spots, billboards and ads on social-networking sites. Activision won't say how much the game cost to make, but most blockbusters require tens of millions of dollars.

For the 20-something generation, video games are entertainment on par with movies, except they last many more hours and immerse players in stories in which their actions affect the outcome.

Patrick Kienbauer, an 18-year-old student in Austria, said the game's last instalment, which has sad background music and a "comfortless ambience," let him "feel the cruelty and violence of war."

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Holiday Shopping Guide

Responsible gift-giving

LINA TOYODA
for Metro Canada

The holiday season is approaching and in the spirit of giving, perhaps we will think about how our shopping and spending affect the lives of other people around the world.

This year, how about considering a gift with free-trade awareness and social responsibility, or charitable donations for friends and family?

There are many organizations that mobilize initiatives to better the situations of people locally and globally, and the holidays are a great time to pitch in on the effort.

A donation to the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation can be used to help premature babies, left, or you can buy a goat in a developing country for a friend through Ten Thousand Villages.

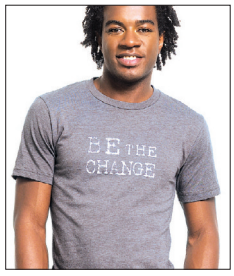
Payless Gives Shoes 4 Kids

This holiday season, Payless ShoeSource is planning to distribute 4,000 pairs of shoes to children of Canadian families in need through their Payless Gives Shoes 4 Kids program.

The retailer is calling on local charities as partners in a grassroots effort to distribute the coupons for free shoes to local children across Canada.

"Especially in the economic crisis, those in need are hit the hardest," said Payless spokesperson Mardi Larson. "This year, the economic crisis is still rippling globally and the need is international."

Shoes are a necessity and having launched the program in the U.S. last year, Mardi said the focus this year was to go international with the shoe-giving program.



This Me to We Be The Change T-shirt is available for $34.50 at metowestyle.com.

"Many times, these are the first pair of new shoes for these children. And what's great is that they can go into a Payless store and pick out their own pair of shoes to reflect their own personal style. It's such a confidence booster."

Ten Thousand Villages

Ten Thousand Villages is a non-profit organization that creates a marketplace for artisans in developing countries to provide sustainable living for them.

Villages practises fair-trade principles that allow artisans to support their families to provide the essentials, like sending their children to school and having a safe place to live.

"We work with people who have very few options or opportunities. Sometimes we work with women or groups in very rural areas where there are absolutely no other employment opportunities for them. So it's basically providing a market for them," said Bev Hiebert, the director of sales for Ten Thousand Villages.

With 50 stores across Canada and more than 100 festival sales, Villages works with more than 2,000 volunteers.

"We work with about 130 different groups in 36 different countries so customers will see a variety of product, everything from Christmas decorations to textiles to even furniture," Hiebert said.

On Nov. 28, Villages will launch a project-based holiday program where you can buy a goat for a friend or even a farm on behalf of your company.

Go to tenthousandvillages.ca for the online shop, local stores and complete details.

Free the Children

Free The Children is a children's charity and the world's largest network of children helping children through education. In fact, 65 per cent of its annual donations come from children's fundraising initiatives, says Craig Kielburger, founder of Free The Children.

"We provide youth with leadership training, global citizenship curriculum in schools and opportunities to assist their local and global community," Kielburger says. "Right now, our network of over one million young people extends across 45 countries.

"With the help of these enthusiastic young leaders, we have been able to build over 500 schools in Africa, Asia and South America, providing daily education to over 50,000 students."

Me to We

Working together with the Free The Children charity is Me to We, a new kind of social enterprise for people who are conscious of their daily choices and want to help change the world through socially responsible lifestyle choices.

Fifty per cent of Me to We's net profits goes to support Free The Children while the other half is reinvested back into the enterprise to ensure its sustainability. Me to We sells products like a "Be The Change" organic T-shirt for example, which positively speaks their message and makes for a gift that's made in Canada.

"Every volunteer trip, organic T-shirt, song, book, speech and choice adds up," Kielburger says.

Free The Children has many holiday gift options at freethechildren.com.

There are also many socially conscious gift ideas through Me to We at metowe.com.

Mount Sinai

The Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation in Toronto launched its Giving Catalogue to help women and babies, the hospital's largest patient group.

"Essentially what happens is someone can, for example, make a donation of $100 and purchase an isolation pediatric stethoscope that we need to care for babies that are born very premature and require specialized care. And then their friend will get a card letting them know that this gift was made on their behalf," says Susan Horvath, president of the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation.

"So many of us have so much. We don't need more 'things,'" Horvath said.

"Think how good somebody will feel receiving a gift that they know will help save the life of a seriously ill baby. We're really talking about making a difference to families.

Go to upportsinai.ca to shop online, or call 416-586-8203 ext. 3936 for more details.

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Holiday Shopping Guide

Go battery-powered

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Canada

If you're looking for the perfect presents for young children this holiday season, bypass the stuffed toys and clothing and seek out the battery-powered gizmos.

The Tyco R/C Stunt Psycho is a battery-powered, remote-controlled car that performs flips and wheelies on a variety of surfaces.

According to reports from toy industry leaders, many of the hottest toys this season move to some degree.

Reidin Goode, senior marketing manager for Girls at Mattel Canada Inc., says that while tech toys have been popular among "tweens" for a few years, this year they're reaching an even younger demographic.

"What we're seeing this year is that a lot of the tech toys are trending downward in age," she said. "Previously you might have seen tech toys for the nine- to 12-year-old target group, whereas now we're seeing a lot of tech innovation in some of the toys targeted at younger kids."

An example for boys is the **Tyco R/C Stunt Psycho**, a battery-powered, remote-controlled car that performs flips and wheelies on a variety of surfaces, including grass, sand and pavement. For girls, there's the **Little Mommy Baby Achoo doll**, which can speak, sneeze and blow its nose.

Disney FamilyFun magazine has released a list of the year's best toys, as determined by test families across the U.S., annually for the past 18 years. Topping this year's list is **Invasion of the Bristlebots** by Klutz, which enables kids to turn old toothbrush heads into motorized, cockroach-like robots that can race and navigate mazes.

Executive editor Mary Giles notes that there is also an increasing interest in "active," kid-powered toys, such as the **RipRider 360**, a reinvention of the classic three-wheeler, now updated with dual-inclined casters to allow for resistance-free drifting and spinning. Another is **Melissa & Doug Sandwich Stacking Games**, which requires kids to run and jump around while creating giant sandwiches with large, bread-shaped gloves and sandwich-filling layers.

"We continued to see an emphasis on active toys, as more and more parents are making sure their kids get plenty of physical activity," she said.

Both Goode and Giles agree that the economic downturn has not had a significant effect on the year's top toys, as they usually consist of a broad range of prices.

"Our cheapest Top 10 toy came in at just $3, the Hot Wheels Color Shifters," said Giles. "But then we also do have some that are still over $100, sort of the big-ticket, special toys that we're hearing people are still interested in getting for their kids."

The Little Mommy Baby Achoo doll by Mattel can speak, sneeze and blow her nose.

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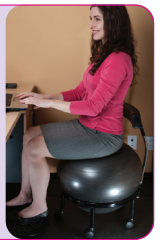

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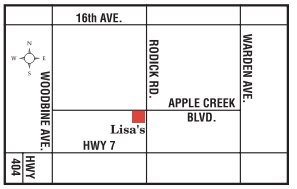

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Holiday Shopping Guide

Like Santa, it helps to make a list of who you want to give gifts to before getting started.

DIY presents 'unique'

LINA TOYODA
for Metro Canada

With the economic downturn cinching financial belts, this holiday season is a good time to adopt a DIY ethic and consider some gifting alternatives.

Not to fret if you're a novice crafter or even a beginner, because there are ideas for all skill levels. All you need is an afternoon and a little creative determination.

Here are some tips from an expert crafter, Austen Gilliland, senior craft editor of Canadian Living magazine:

Food gifts

"I think food gifts are a really good idea because you can put in an afternoon worth of effort but you can get a dozen gifts out of it. Something like a cookie mix or a jam or a jelly or something like spiced nuts."

Without spending too much money, you can get big volumes out of food gifts. Like a typical batch of jam, you'll get anywhere between six to 18 jars, she says.

Also, "you know that they're going to use it or they'll be able to re-gift it," she jokes.

Presentation

There are simple ways to make a gift look great. And you don't really need a lot of special material to do a nice job with wrapping, Gilliland says.

"Even if you pick up brown paper bags — that you would use for a lunch bag — you can get 50 of those for under $3 at the grocery store. And then if you go to the fabric store, you can usually find a nice ribbon and you can get metres of that for $2 or $3."

Small details can add a nice touch without costing much.

When Gilliland is making gifts, she says she will often choose one idea and make variations on that idea for a half-dozen people.

With food gifts, you can put in an afternoon worth of effort but can get a dozen gifts out of it, says expert crafter Austen Gilliland.

"Once you do the first one, you know what you're doing and you can get into a rhythm and get a mini-production line going. You really want to maximize your time and resources, and that's one way to do it."

Monograms

You can take a nice notebook — a moleskin notebook for example — and make a cover. Everyone's notebook cover is basically the same but it will have their initials on it, says Gilliland. And monograms are a great way to do that.

"On the Internet, you can find instructions on everything. You can learn how to screen print, monogram something — you can learn how to paint china. You can download fonts and get a cool font for the letters," she says.

So a great go-to idea is to monogram something, whether it's a pillowcase or a coffee mug.

Themed calendar

If you're a photographer, it doesn't take a long time to put a calendar together. Pick a fun theme, like 'Year of weird stuff,'" says Gilliland.

Many computer programs will have a basic template that you can use to personalize it however way you want. Run it down to your local print shop and it will put it together for you, she says.

Plan ahead

It's a good idea before you get yourself into a frenzy of Christmas present-making to sit down and make an extensive list. Write down everybody you want a present for and decide what you're making ahead of time. When it's time to shop for supplies, take a list with you.

Making your own gifts is a great way to save money but you really need to do the planning ahead of time, Gilliland says. "And that's where the variations on a theme comes in, because often — like the moleskin notebooks — you can get three in a pack."

One-of-a-kind

The best things about homemade gifts is that it is unique and personal.

"I think it means more when you get something that somebody made with their two hands," Gilliland says.

"It sounds kind of fanciful to say the heart and soul of the maker is present in the gift that they made with their hands, but I do believe that there is something to be said for that idea."

For more DIY tips and gift ideas, go to Gilliland's Make and Do craft blog at canadianliving.com.

Use ribbon to make your gift stand out.

Stocking stuffer
These cute expandable wash cloths, $3.50 each, are available at all Bath & Body Works stores across Canada. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Prep for parties by catching up on the news

Some Canadians are doing more than pulling together an outfit or purchasing a host gift to prep for a holiday party — they're also boning up on their current events, a new survey suggests.

An MSN Canada survey of more than 1,000 people conducted by Harris-Decima finds 20 per cent of respondents admit to doing some research on current affairs or other topics to be ready for casual conversation at a holiday party.

Men are more likely than women to study up prior to a big event, with 22 per cent saying they do so prior to a holiday party.

Conversation expert Debra Fine says individuals "should be prepared to play the conversation game" when walking into a party. Part of that entails having two or three things to talk about in the event a conversation runs dry.

Most Canadians searching for the latest news or buzzworthy fodder are letting their fingers do the walking, the survey suggests. The findings show that 67 per cent of respondents are using online sources to access information.

But it's not just that people pride themselves on being knowledgeable about what's going on around the globe — they also look with approval on others who are aware, the survey suggests.

Ninety per cent of those surveyed say it's important to be up to date on what's happening in the world. And 79 per cent of respondents say a person's knowledge about what's happening in the world can influence what others think of them.

While 86 per cent consider themselves to be "in the know" on a variety of topics, 47 per cent of respondents have frequently or sometimes wished they knew more information on a particular topic so they could actively participate in a conversation happening around them.

Mary-Ellen Anderson, executive director/producer for MSN.ca, says people should give themselves "the gift of information."

"Today with online, you're inundated by newsletters, RSS feeds and not to mention your endless amount of bookmarks which you have with different sites that you go to," she says.

"The difference in terms of the amount of news that's coming to us is incredible in the last 10 years, and it's only going to grow exponentially... in the years to come."

As for partygoers, Fine said that beyond having some topics ready for chitchat, people should convey approachability by exuding confidence through body language, like looking ahead and smiling — even if they aren't feeling entirely at ease.

"If I walk into a situation where I don't know anybody and I lack confidence, I just fake it," said Fine, the author of The Fine Art of Small Talk.

"I fake it for five minutes or 50 minutes until I do feel comfortable, so I'm aware of my body language, I'm aware of my facial expressions," she said.

Harris-Decima polled 1,013 Canadians from Oct. 8-11 through teleVox, its telephone omnibus survey. Results for a sample of this size are considered accurate plus or minus 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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These personal safety alarms by Ila Dusk emit a high-decibel scream designed to shock and disorient an attacker. Available for $29 each exclusively at the Bay. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holiday Shopping Guide

Silver belles

Finished with a leather tassel, this **Riviera Necklace, $44,** features an adjustable bead that slides up and down the multiple chains. Also available in gold from Foxy Originals (foxyoriginals.com).

This **silver clutch by Jessica** retails for $29.99 at Sears (sears.ca).

MICHAEL Michael Kors multi-colour wool/cashmere knit gloves, $88 each. For availability, call 1-866-733-KORS.

Swarovski HYBRID Long Necklace, $250. For more, go to swarovski.com.

This **PURE Alfred Sung bracelet** was designed by Canadian fashion icon Alfred Sung exclusively for Zellers. Prices for PURE Alfred Sung accessories range from $7.97 to $19.97. For more, go to zellers.ca.

This **TIMEX Women's Crystal Collection watch, $120,** features genuine Swarovski crystals. For more information, visit timex.ca.

American Eagle by Payless **Glimmer Glitter flat,** top, and American Eagle by Payless **Eve Ruffle flat,** both $37.99.Available in select Payless stores across Canada. Go to canada.paylless.com or call 1-877-474-6379 for more.

This **Silk Rosette Scarf, $74,** is available at Banana Republic (bananarepublic.ca).

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Holiday Shopping Guide

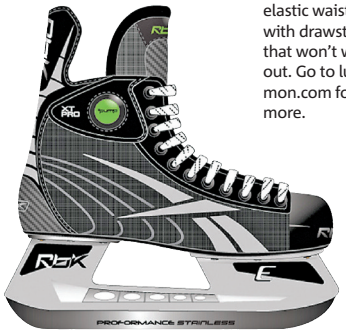
Game on!

This **Bauer Supreme One 75 Goalstick, $129.99,** is available at at Canadian Tire (canadiantire.ca).

Show your Canadian pride with this Vancouver 2010 **unisex weave beanie**. For more details or to order online, go to elevatesport.ca

This **Fila AT Corsa Shell Hoodie for men, $80,** has a full zip reversible jacket with hood and two hand pockets. For retailers, call 1-800-668-5480.

This **Game On Pant, $78,** by Lululemon has a soft elastic waistband with drawstring that won't wash out. Go to lululemon.com for more.



These **Reebok Pump Skates, from $299.99,** feature quick drying-double density microfibre liner. Available at Canadian Tire (canadiantire.ca).

A portion of the sales of **Otterbottle stainless steel water bottles,** which range in price from $15.99-$21.99, to towards supporting the David Suzuki Foundation. For more, go to otterbottle.ca.

This **Winnwell Tower Bag, $99.99,** features an enzyme that kills the nasty odours associated with a well-used bag of hockey equipment. Available at Canadian Tire (canadiantire.ca).

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Holiday Shopping Guide

A little luxury goes long way

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Canada

Despite economic uncertainty, buying a luxury item for a loved one may still be the best investment this holiday season.

Jennifer Silk, a Vancouver-based stylist and personal shopper, says tough economic times may actually be more of a reason to purchase classic items that will last longer.

"You could blow money on 10 items and you won't use them in two months, whereas you blow the same amount of money on one item and ... people will be able to use that item 10 years down the road," she said.

Lisa Freeman, editor-in-chief of Consumer Reports' New York-based ShopSmart magazine, agrees.

"You can't just think about the one-time expense," she said. "Let's say (you want) a basic black dress, and you're deciding whether to go to Wal-Mart or really spend some money at a nicer store. If you amortize the cost over all of those wearings, it's obviously going to be better if you invest in some good-quality thing that's not going to fall apart and stand the test of time in terms of style.

"If you don't have as much money to spend ... it really does pay to buy better stuff, but less of it."

A Coach bag may be an expensive gift, but it will last a long time — and the recipient will love it.

Freeman added, however, that luxury items do not necessarily have to be expensive. Warehouse retail chains such as Costco regularly sell designer items for less, as do websites such as overstock.com and outnet.com.

"If you decide you don't want to buy online, it's still a great research tool to get an idea of what's out there and what the prices are," she said. "Use the prices you find online as negotiating tools. Go to the local jewelry stores ... and say, 'I saw something comparable online. Can you match that price?'"

Silk says some of the most requested gifts among women are clothing and jewelry — items best bought keeping in mind classic styles and neutral colours. For men, she recommends suits, trench coats and briefcases.

Mina Almai, a 25-year-old Vancouverite, says a Coach handbag is the best gift she's ever received because it is "classy and timeless."

"It's definitely quality over quantity," she said. "Not to mention timeless pieces are always in style."

Neil Hamilton, a 28-year-old Torontonian, says his most prized gift was a high-end stereo system that got almost a decade's worth of use.

"When you get something a little more luxurious, you get the extended use and the memory of who purchased it stays with you longer," he said.

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Metro Homes

Notable residents

Some high-profile residents of Forest Hill include: Nelly Furtado, Kim Mitchell, the late Ted Rogers (president and CEO of Rogers Communications) and Larry Tanenbaum (chairman of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment).

WIKIPEDIA.ORG

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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The fine form of Forest Hill

Forest Hill
Spaces & Places

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

A midtown mecca like no other, Forest Hill impresses with a focus on family life and finer living.

As one of Toronto's most exclusive neighbourhoods, Forest Hill draws some very affluent residents to its peaceful streets and charming demeanour.

A wealth of parkland threads throughout Forest Hill and includes a long series of trails and parkettes that spear alongside Chaplin Crescent from Oriole Park in the southeast to Memorial Park in the northwest. Most residential streets are lined with tall, elder trees and the whole area feels very green as a result.

Along with a number of well-regarded junior and senior schools in the area, Forest Hill sports three of Toronto's most prestigious schools — all within a short walk of each other — making it a haven for families looking to secure an outstanding education for their kids. Upper Canada College in the south is the oldest independent school in Ontario and perhaps the most iconic boys-only school in all of Canada, having served as an incubator for generations of Canadian males as well as a drawing point for some very famous instructors, such as author Robertson Davies.

To the west, the Bishop Strachan School and St. Michael's College School are equally renowned day and boarding schools for girls and boys respectively.

At the corners of Spadina and Lonsdale roads, Lower Forest Hill Village sees an eclectic mix of grocery stores, coffee shops and restaurants frequented by students and Maserati enthusiasts alike while the northern corridor along Eglinton Avenue West contains a more traditional mix of cosmopolitan delights and pursuits.

Upper Canada College

Lonsdale Gallery

Houses in Forest Hill

PHOTOGRAPHY: HANNAH ZITNER (GALLERY) RAFAEL BRUSILOW (SCHOOL AND HOUSES)/FOR METRO CANADA

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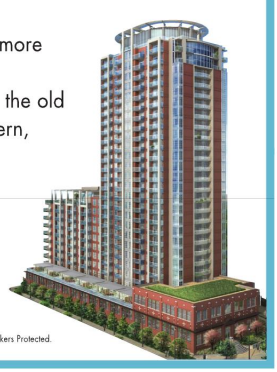

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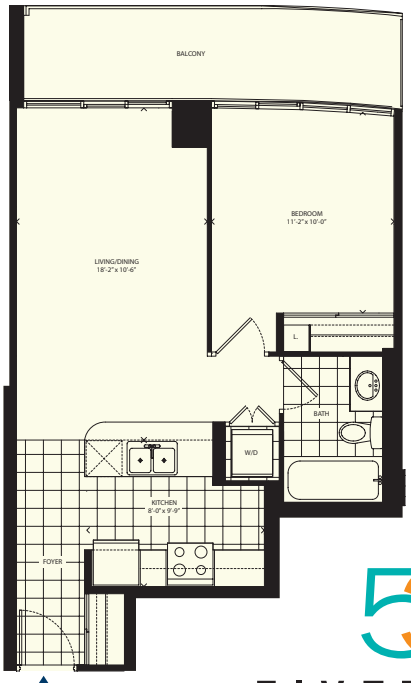

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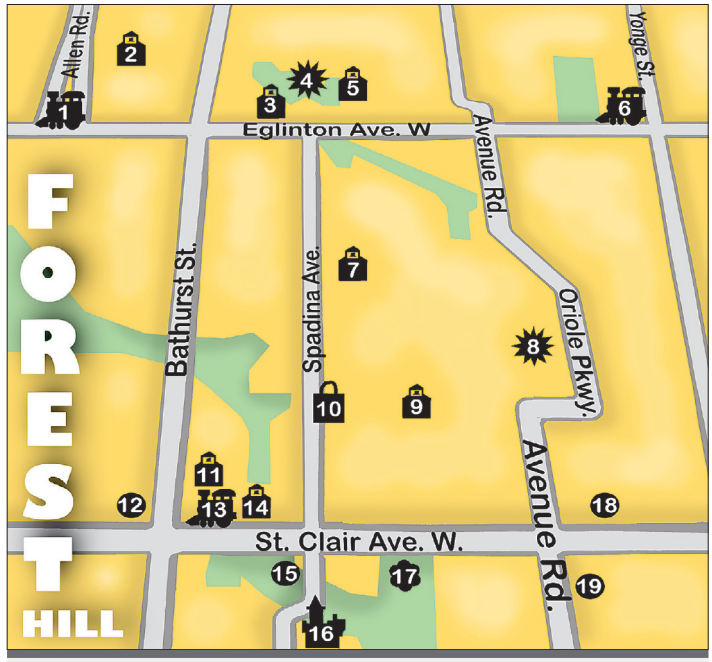
Exclusive living in the forest

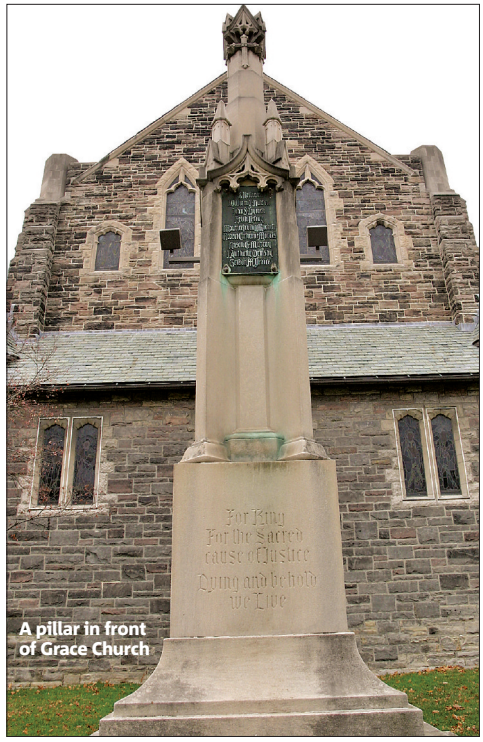


Notable

- **1.** Eglinton West Subway
- **2.** West Preparatory Jr. Public School (JK to Gr. 6)
- **3.** Forest Hill CI (Gr. 9-12)
- **4.** Forest Hill Memorial Arena (340 Chaplin Cres.)
- **5.** North Preparatory Jr. Public School (JK to Gr. 6)
- **6.** Eglinton Subway
- **7.** Froest Hill Jr. and Sr. Public School (JK to Gr. 8)
- **8.** Upper Canada College
- **9.** Bishop Strachan School
- **10.** Forest Hill Village south (Spadina and Lonsdale)
- **11.** St. Michael's College School
- **12.** 500 and 530 St. Clair W. (a condo at St. Clair and Bathurst)
- **13.** St. Clair West Subway
- **14.** Holy Rosary Catholic School
- **15.** Churchill Park Condominiums (at St. Clair and Spadina)
- **16.** Casa Loma
- **17.** Winston Churchill Park
- **18.** ONE12-St. Clair W. (a condo at St. Clair and Avenue)
- **19.** The Avenue (a condo at St. Clair and Avenue)

The Lowdown:

- **AVERAGE REAL ESTATE VALUE:** Forest Hill South: $1,149,560; Forest Hill North: $759,079
- **AVERAGE GROSS RENT:** Forest Hill South: $1,130; Forest Hill North: $1065
- **SHOPPING AND GROCERY:** Kitchen Table (389 Spadina Rd.), Loblaws (12 St. Clair Ave. E.), Bruno's Fine Foods (1560 Yonge St.), Young Dave (494 Eglinton Ave. W.)
- **CONDOMINIUMS:** 500 & 530 St. Clair W., Churchill Park Condominiums (St. Clair & Spadina Rd.), The Avenue (St. Clair & Avenue Rd.), One12 St. Clair (112 St. Clair Ave. W.)
- **GETTING AROUND:** Subway links at St. Clair West and St. Clair stations with Davisville and Eglinton stations just to the east. The 33 Forest Hill bus operates from St. Clair West Station along Spadina Rd up to Roselawn Ave. and Bathurst St. Access to the 401 via Allen Rd to the northwest. –RAFAEL BRUSILOW



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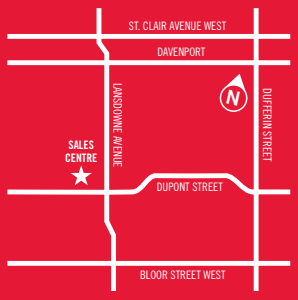

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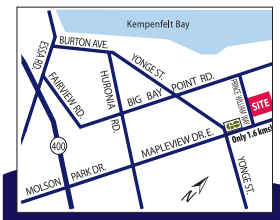

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ALL PHOTOS HANNAH ZITNER/FOR METRO CANADA

Village atmosphere

HANNAH ZITNER
for Metro Canada

Amongst the mansions, parks and ravines in this Toronto neighborhood considered one of the more posh areas of the city, is the two-block entertainment hub centred on Spadina Road and Lonsdale Road.

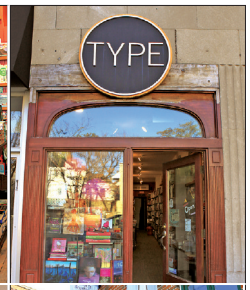
The Forest Hill Village is a mix of upscale restaurants, family-friendly eateries and take-out spots as well as high-end shops, spas and a popular spinning studio (according to one shop keeper, if people aren't at work or Starbucks, they're spinning). With no sky scrappers in sight, the village feels more like a small town's city centre.

The Hope Street Café is a neighborhood staple that fills up with a midday crowd of kids, parents, bubbies and zadies, while it's sister restaurant across the street, the South Side, has a more sophisticated menu aiming to feed an upscale clientele. Fighting for the same clients is Sotto in the village, serving mouth-watering, authentic Italian dishes.

Down the street from the South Side is the Forest Hill Spa, where locals go for their manicures, pedicures, massages and even minor cosmetic surgeries.

Two established art galleries decorate this intersection as well, the Lonsdale and Art Interiors. Both galleries aim to support local, established talent as well as emerging artists.

Type bookstore



Kitch Boutique

Lonsdale Gallery

Where to go

- Restaurants: Sotto in the Village, South Side Restaurant and Bar, Hope Street Café, Mashu Mashu Mediterranean Gill, Sushi Lovers, The Village Chill, What a Bagel.
- To do: Lonsdale Gallery, Art Interiors gallery, Forest Hill Spa, Track Fitness.
- Shopping: Kitsch Boutique, Ecco Shoes, Type, Villa Ventura.

What do you like about Forest Hill?
-By Rafael Brusilow

Heather O'Neill
age 60, lives in the area
A: I love it here, especially the village — it's very family oriented. Edo-Ko is very yummy for sushi.

Joanna Cumandra
age 45, visits the area
A: I like the trees because they make it feel old and refined here. Pizza Banfi has great Italian food.

Paul Popovici
age 26, lives in the area
A: I like that Forest Hill has its own life and community. Dutch Dreams is one of the best places for ice cream!

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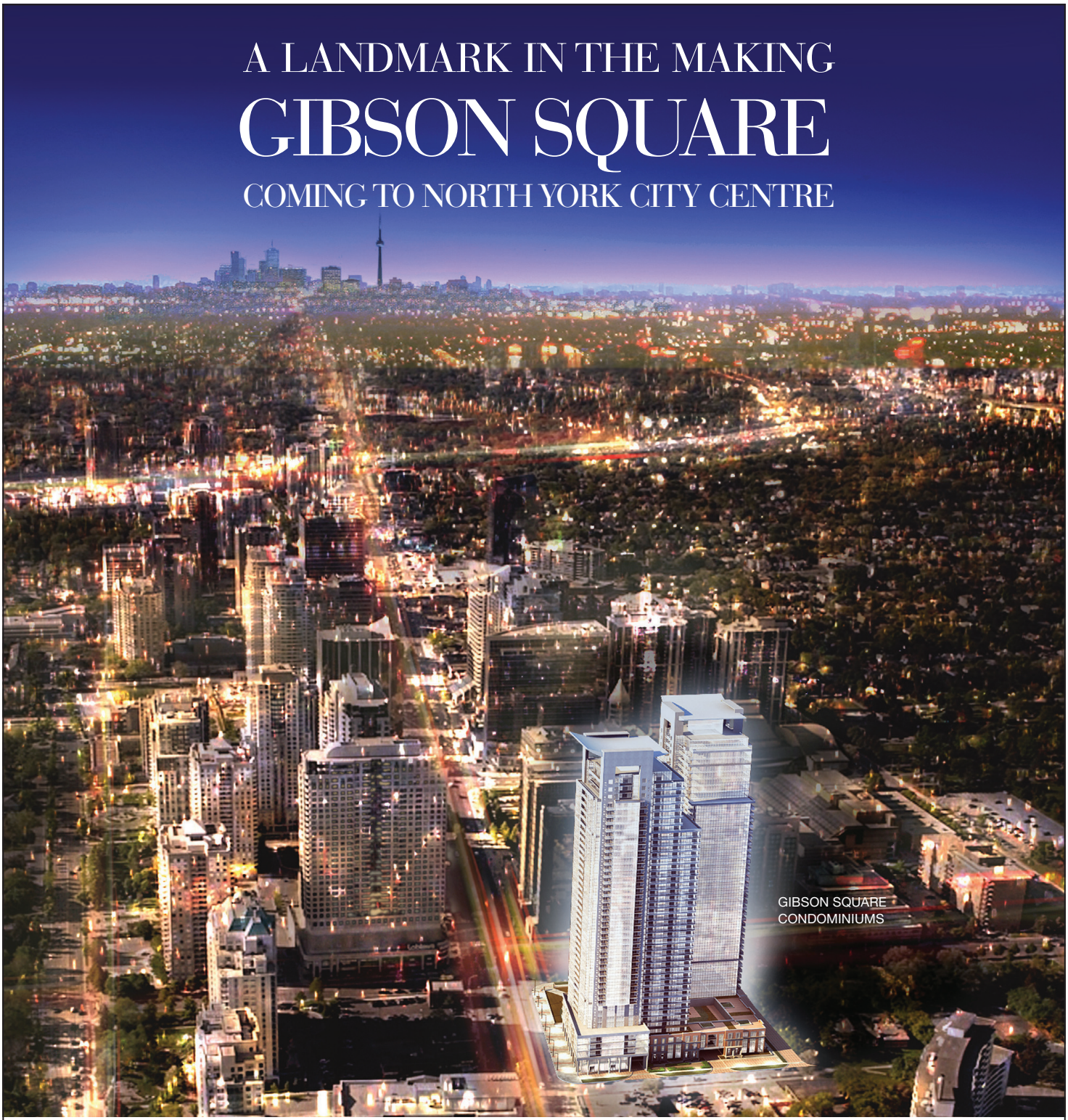

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Columns coming back
Metro Homes usual columns and features — including Sylvia Putz's Homescape, Style At Home magazine content, The Hunt by Amit Paul and Jeff Cowan's Legal Matters — will return.

Hyper-modern living

Suite Talk

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

There's a "Wow!" effect on display in the model penthouse suite at the Cosmopolitan Hotel and Residences — and its presence is no accident.

Michael Kaye, director of projects and design at Skyline Developments, says the goal of designing the flagship suite at the Cosmopolitan, located just south of Yonge and King streets downtown, was to create a first impression that grabs hold of the imagination.

"What we wanted to do was create a suite that was very inviting to celebrities and people who really appreciate decor — the first thing you'll hear from anyone who walks in is 'Wow!' It's a really grand effect," Kaye said.

The 1,450-square-foot, $1.8 million model suite is certainly suited to the celebrity lifestyle with 20-foot ceilings, an impressive mirrored staircase, a lower-level balcony and 450-square-foot patio on the upper level and hardwood floors throughout. With a spa and wine bar restaurant built into the building, Cosmopolitan definitely aims for the hotel-living feel.

Adding to the celebrity motif, the suite was decked out with the help of HGTV Designer Guys Allen Chan, Anwar Mukhayesh and Matt Davis and was featured in an episode of the television show.

The decor throughout is hyper-modern and chic, with custom furniture that features plenty of neutral white and silver tones to maximize the effect of the natural light streaming in through the soaring floor-to-ceiling windows.

Lighting throughout the suite has been augmented with an LED option so that with the turn of a knob the space can change colour to suite your mood.

In the master bedroom, pine and soft materials like silk combine to create a space that feels inviting and uncluttered, especially with the skylight in the ceiling.

Best of all, the suite — like all suites at the Cosmopolitan — comes fully furnished to the buyer.

The tall, narrow building features only five suites per floor and prices that, except for the penthouse model, start at $219,000 and max out at $375,000 making the development a surprisingly thrifty buy, especially fully furnished.

Some shots from Cosmopolitan.

The lowdown

- Cosmopolitan Hotel and Residences. Address: 8 Colborne St. Builder: Skyline Developments. Website: cosmopolitanresidences.ca. Availability: Now. Prices and sizes: Fully furnished suites average 500 square feet and are priced from $219,000 to $375,000

Going, Going, Gone

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This beautiful ... red tartan throw was woven out of 100 per cent Italian wool; it's the perfect plaid to wrap around your shoulders on a cold night. Dace, $70, dace.ca. **EMMA YARDLEY/FOR METRO CANADA**

Snuggle down on the sofa with a pile of plaid Soho pillows to prop you up. Home Outfitters, $19.99 each, homeoutfitters.com.

Homes in **Style**

Terrific **tartan, pleasant plaid**

EMMA YARDLEY
for Metro Canada

As the leaves fall from the trees and the temperature drops, plaids and tartans start to appear in shop windows. Those horizontal and vertical bands of colour aren't limited to winter scarves and pajamas though. They've earned their stripes in home decor, as well.

"Plaids evoke traditional decorating, (they're) much more adaptable to fall and winter colours," Karl Lohnes, home expert for Canada AM. "Plaids need dedication; they need to be the main focus in a room either wallpaper, large scale fabric on drapes or a large sofa. One big element of plaid is enough."

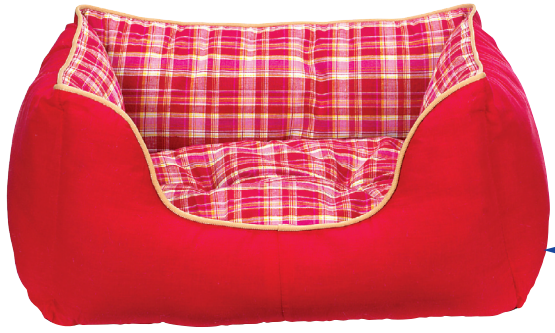
To give a room a more masculine feel, pair richly coloured plaids with leather, suede and other heavy fabrics. There are lots of options out there, from picture frames to dressers, but make sure to avoid pastel plaids.

"Choose your plaid first — the bigger the room, the bigger the pattern — then decorate around it. Adding plaid as an afterthought never works!"

A tartan-upholstered couch can be the standalone piece in a living room. Home Furniture, $1,299, homefurniturecanada.com.

Bed sheets are a great way to experiment with plaid in a bedroom without having to commitment to something more permanent. Lodge 250 Thread Count Plaid Cotton Percale Sheet Sets, $39.97, Walmart, walmart.ca.

Peel them, paste them, and scrub them. Besides being easy to apply and even easier to maintain, these solid vinyl tartan wallpapers bring texture and dark rich colours into a room. The Home Depot, 56 square feet per roll, $39.98, homedepot.ca.



Present your pup with his own plush plaid pad. Bow Wow Rectangle Reversible Cuddler, $9.99, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

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BROSE expands collection
Though cocktail dresses remain at the heart of the collection, fashion label BROSE has announced its 2010 line has now expanded into cocktail separates, including jackets, pants, skirts and tops. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Style

Designers vie for lucrative price

The Toronto Fashion Incubator is inviting emerging Canadian designers to create looks fit for a doll — all part of a shot at taking home a lucrative prize package. The non-profit organization is holding its annual TFI New Labels contest, which has helped launch the careers of Canadian top designers like David Dixon and NADA (headed by Nada Shepherd, pictured left). The fashion design competition is open to professional women's wear apparel designers who have been in business for three years or less. Submissions are due Nov. 24. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

A sign of good breeding

A camel-coloured coat can help spice up a cool-weather wardrobe

A camel-coloured coat may sound bland, but it could be just the thing to spice up a cool-weather wardrobe.

While a camel coat makes a classic chic statement, the style is malleable enough to be either a trendy boyfriend jacket or traditional trench. Its place in fashion history, on the backs of Katharine Hepburn and Grace Kelly, and Ali McGraw and Kate Moss, give it a solid pedigree, and the colour — a range of shades between tobacco and fawn — has a richness to it that, quite frankly, makes you look rich.

"Camel looks indulgent like winter white but has the pragmatism of grey and black. It's the best of both worlds. ... A camel coat evokes throwaway glamour," says Michael Kors, who for many seasons has used camel as a core of his fall collections.

You can wear camel with any colour in your wardrobe, including black, which makes a camel coat a good investment piece, but one that you don't have to spend a fortune on, says Stephanie Solomon, fashion director of Bloomingdale's. She says she owns three styles — a zip-front, a peacoat and belted version — and she's had each for at least 20 years. They come out of the closet every time she wears the black pants, black shirt, black heels combo.

Kors suggests pairing camel with white or bold brights like red or orange; stylist Mary Alice Stephenson recommends it with one of the season's other trends, a neon colour like hot pink or electric blue.

Macy's vice-president of ready-to-wear fashion, Nicole Fischelis, says the contrast colour doesn't really matter because what most complements a camel coat are brown leather accessories — the belt, the boot, the bag. She likes a little animal print thrown into the mix, too.

"Camel looks indulgent like winter white but has the pragmatism of grey and black. It's the best of both worlds."
Michael Kors, fashion designer

Camel coats aren't always camel-hair coats, but that's the garment that really made its mark in the middle of the 20th century as a sign of sophisticated taste. Camel hair is from the soft undercoat of the camel, with a similar feeling — and similar cache — to cashmere and alpaca, explains Marlene Middlemiss, fashion design instructor at the Fashion Institute of Technology. Over time, some manufacturers started mixing camel hair with wool as a cost-cutting measure.

"Camel works in everything from dyed wool to cashmere or camel hair. It looks best in fabrics with texture and what fabric you choose depends on your wallet, climate and the shape of your garment," says Kors. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crop, belted coat, Old Navy, $89.50.

Thinsulate lined herringbone coat in Palomino, Talbots, $299.

Leather coat for men, Banana Republic, $610.

A Michael Kors camel-coloured coat shown at New York Fashion Week (February 2009).

Shop like a pro

The Refinery provides women with the fashion tools they need to explore and enhance their personal style with the following services: personal styling, shopping tours, wardrobe overhaul, shop your closet, colour analysis and style parties. Visit therefinery.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tiffany bracelet with a cause

EXCLUSIVE Today beginning at 9 a.m., Yorkdale Shopping Centre will offer shoppers the chance to purchase a one-of-a-kind silver charm bracelet created for Yorkdale by Tiffany & Co. with proceeds benefitting SickKids Foundation.

The sterling silver piece is a classic Tiffany chain link bracelet with a circular charm that depicts the location of Yorkdale along stylized map gridlines indicating the centre's latitude and longitude. Each bracelet costs $295 (plus tax) with a limit of five per person.

In total, SickKids Foundation will receive a donation of $34,000 from the sale of the bracelets.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Curves to boot

Lots of choice for women with wide calves

JANINE FALCON
For Metro Canada

For women with curvy legs, this time of year usually means footwear frustration.

"I can never find tall boots to fit my calves," says Heather Watterworth, a public relations rep for cosmetics company Mary Kay. "They're always too tight."

Sure, Watterworth and others like her could go for below-the-calf heights, or uninspired shiny stretch vinyl, but in this season of knee-high chic, those options just don't measure up.

Happily, according to Town Shoes PR director Crissi Giamos, "This is a fabulous season for fitting different calf widths."

Shoe repair shops may also be able to help stretch boots

Knee-highs with generous stretch panels are certainly more and more common, and lace-ups — as long as they lace-up for real — offer adjustable comfort (Rockport, Timberland and Cole Haan all have handsome lace-up styles this season).

Giamos also recommends giving the popular slouchy boot a try, the type that allows the wearer to pull the boot leg up or push it down. They tend to have a roomier fit; some also have stretch, she says.

In terms of brands, Giamos points to David Dixon, Kate and Mel, and the Town Shoes private label.

In fact, an encouraging number of companies now make boots with curvy-calf appeal. Toronto boutique Trove offers Bos & Co., a Canadian label, which offers styles with a more generous leg fit. Ron White carries an impressive variety of suitables by Cole Haan, La Canadienne, Mephisto, Stuart Weitzman and Frye, as well as the Ron White signature line (RonWhite.ca ships across Canada and internationally).

Ecco boutiques may also yield a find; the brand prides itself on its forgiving cut that fits a range of calf sizes. And for the online-savvy, US-based WideWidths.com offers wide, extra-wide and super-wide calf sizes from companies such as Blondo and Naturalizer.

A good shoe-repair shop may also be able to supply a better fit, either by stretching the boot shaft or putting in an insert. They're not always easy to find, but the best ones are usually known to local shoe-store staff.

Right: Ecco Hancock Boot, $275.

Left: Timberland Charles Street Tall Lexiss Waterproof boot, $200.

Cole Haan Air Lyric Tall Boot, $398.

Left: Frye Rory scrunch boot, Ron White, $448.

Lacoste Tobie slouch boot, $275.

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Roxy gets athletic

New workout gear line is colourful, durable

DENISE SURETTE
for Metro Canada

Since its birth in the early 1990s, Roxy has become widely known for surfwear, beachwear and casual clothes that are hip and relaxed. With a new line of workout gear, Roxy has taken another step towards keeping active girls looking great.

With fun, bright colours and sleek lines, the designs are filling an ever growing need for women to have workout clothes that look as good as their regular wardrobe. Pinks, purples and bright greens are the first thing that captures the eye, but the finer details are what make the line really stand out for women who take exercise seriously.

The non-chafing seams in all of the clothes ensure skin irritations won't bother you, even on a long run, zipper pulls stay flat to your hoodies, and thumb-holes in the cuffs will help keep your hands warm. The sweat-proof media pockets in hoodies and tank tops, give your iPod a safe place for long workouts.

The Athletix line, launched in stores in the U.S., is still working its way to Canada. However, Canadian customers can purchase the collection online at roxy.com. Prices in American dollars are reasonable, ranging from $34 to $42 for a sports bra, and $42 to $58 for yoga pants and capris.

The new Roxy Athletix collection was made for women who take exercise seriously. Left: Run Roxy Run Pullover, $62 US.

Far left: Samba lesson pants, $58 US.

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INSPIRATION

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GILT TRIP Metallic-leather platform slingbacks, Spring ($50, myspringshoes.com)

SLIM SHADY Polyester and rayon skirt, RW&CO. ($65, rw-co.com)

C'EST BOW Satin handbag, Soaked in Luxury ($50, 1-800-463-8127)

ASYMMETRICAL DRAPING Polyester dress, Vero Moda ($65, 1-866-338-4392)

Editors' Pick

PARTY PLANNER

Top stylists on how to get great hair for soirée season.

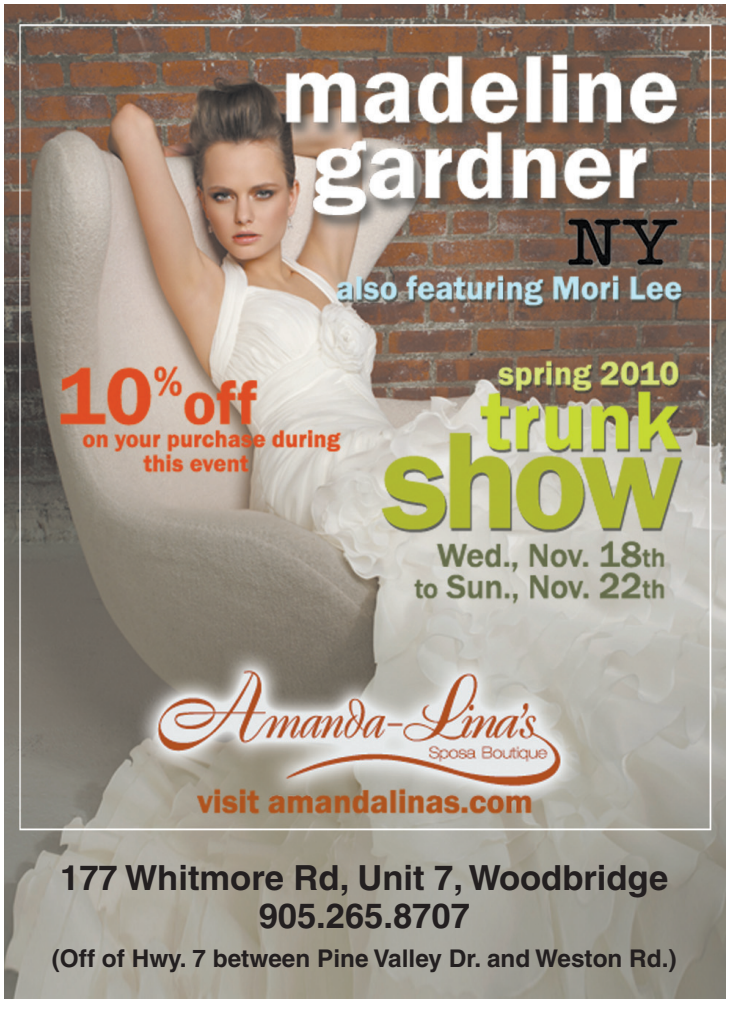
•Invest in a versatile heat-styling tool, says Andy Bodine, artistic ambassador of ghd, who recommends buying a flat iron that can create both curls and sleek hair. •Schedule a trim. If you have a great cut, your hair will be easier to style, says John Steinberg, a Toronto-based hairstylist. •Have a post-work event? Book a blowout for the morning, then pull it into a loose bun, says Robert Vetica, an L.A.-based hairstylist. Then undo the bun, brush hair out, and spritz with hairspray.

SNOW QUEEN

American snowboarder babe Gretchen Bleiler has teamed up with Oakley once again to create a line of outerwear. Bleiler is branded as the Gwen Stefani of the snowboarding world for her sartorial style on and off the slopes, and her collection includes goggles and apparel made from recyclable fabric. Her mandate? Design something her fellow betties would wear.

Mane Jacket in Worn Olive ($400, Oakley)

To read these stories and more, visit: **ellecanada.com**



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This boot is made for baring

The season's edgy peep-toe bootie is the ultimate transitional shoe

The newest twist on the bootie is this year's shoe/boot/sandal hybrid. H&M carries a colourful version, right, $59.99.

These boots are made for baring — a little toe, that is.

For summer lovers who just can't embrace autumn styles yet, consider the peep-toe bootie a transitional model.

With an '80s vibe, designers have created this twist on the shoe bootie that was last year's must-have item. Now, with heels chunky or slim, in black leather or head-turning purple suede, they come with a small toe opening or with lots of artful cutouts that show some top-of-the-foot skin.

"They have the cool factor because they're leather, they're sleek and have a lot of hardware like studs and grommets," says Michelle McCool, fashion director of Cosmopolitan magazine. "They're edgy and modern."

And while you may be wondering what exactly this shoe is, Gregg Andrews, a fashion director for Nordstrom, likens it to a hybrid of the classic peep-toe pump, the gladiator sandal and the bootie.

"It's sort of the merging of three great shoe styles into one," he says.

McCool adds: "You get more bang for your buck."

The bootie will keep your look current while adding a touch of sex appeal, she says. "The openness of the toe makes it sexy. And most of them are on a high heel, and that's sexy."

While feet still are likely to be bare in the booties right now, you don't have to put them away when the temperatures cool. Add tights or leggings, and wear them through the colder months.

And the really good news? There were even more peep-toe booties on the runways during the recent New York Fashion Week previews of next spring's styles.

"Open-toe booties seem popular as the rush to wear a total boot does not play well with our global warming," says Candy Pratts Price, executive fashion director at Style.com. "Also, I believe the gladiator sandal was so popular that it is slowly evolving into a boot with still some openness."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Black suede high-heeled ankle boots, Aldo, $140 (on sale for $69.98 at aldoshoes.com).

Jess rooting for Ashlee

Jessica Simpson is excited to see sister Ashlee playing Roxie Hart in Chicago on Broadway. "I can't wait to watch @ashsimpsonwentz on broadway in all of her glory!!!" Jessica Twittered. "I get chillbumps from toes to noggin thinking about it!!! YAY!!!!!" USMAGAZINE.COM

Entertainment

Depp sexiest

People magazine has selected their new Sexiest Man Alive, and the honour goes to Johnny Depp. Depp is only the third man to earn the title twice, after Brad Pitt and George Clooney. PEOPLE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

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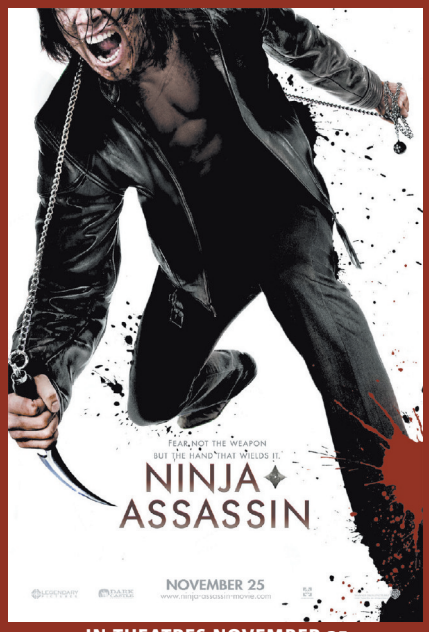

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metro

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Stop motion thriving

Human touch behind genre's success, expert says

PHIL BROWN
Metro World News

In an age when animation is dominated by digital CGI (most notably the work of Pixar), one form of analog animation seems to be gaining momentum. Traditional hand-drawn animation is practically dead, but stop motion continues to thrive.

Over the next week, two stop-motion features are hitting screens: The independent claymation feature Mary And Max, as well as Wes Anderson's big budget Roald Dahl adaptation The Fantastic Mr. Fox. Something about this meticulous handmade animation continues to resonate with audiences even though it should be outdated.

"For audiences, stop motion has an inherent charm that simply cannot be replicated in drawn or CG animation," says professor Christopher Walsh. "This charm largely comes from the physical aspect of the medium. In stop motion it's a real puppet on a real set moving through real space."

Walsh should know, considering that he is one of the instructors in the Animation Program at Sheridan College (the only institution in Canada with a comprehensive stop-animation program).

The claymation feature Mary and Max opens next week

"Human hands make the whole world that appears on screen and that human connection, in an increasingly digitally polished age is reassuring to an audience," claims Walsh.

This audience connection is very real and as a result the production of stop-motion animated films is greater today than ever before. With this in mind, we would like to take a look back at some of the finest works of stop motion ever produced.

THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Director Henry Selick transformed the traditionally jerky stop-motion medium to a slick Hollywood production with stunning results. The first ever feature length stop-motion animated film made in Hollywood didn't take the box office by storm on initial release, but has gone on to become a contemporary classic that played a major role in the resurgence of the format.

WALLACE AND GROMIT

British animator Nick Park's clay man and dog duo have been subjects of four short movies and one feature that have won countless awards (including several Oscars). The characters are incredibly expressive in a manner rarely achieved in any form of animation.

Stop-motion classic Wallace and Gromit has won several Oscars.

THE RANKIN/BASS CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

Possibly the most beloved works of stop motion ever produced, these classic adaptations of Christmas stories like Rudolf The Red-nosed Reindeer have become annual holiday favourites that have introduced generations of children to the wonders of stop-motion.

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Hudson to play Winnie Mandela in feature flick
Jennifer Hudson will play Winnie Mandela in Winnie, a movie about former South African president Nelson Mandela's powerful apartheid-busting but disgraced ex-wife that will begin filming May 30. PEOPLE.COM

A 'Noble' Fringe scientist

Dr. Walter Bishop follows in a long line of mad scientists. An unbalanced genius like Bishop going at it in his lab is a pop-culture staple. Or even, some would say, a cliche.

But in the able hands of John Noble, who stars on Fox's sci-fi thriller Fringe, Bishop comes to life. He is both comical and tragic, nutty as a fruitcake yet totally relatable. This is a living, breathing portrayal.

Bishop is a scientist of Einsteinian proportions who for decades was deemed insane and, until Fringe started last fall, institutionalized.

Then his long-estranged son, Peter (played by Joshua Jackson), reluctantly agreed to provide the supervision Dad required to re-enter society.

Fringe is on Thursday nights

Rounding out the show's odd threesome is FBI Agent Olivia Dunham (Anna Torv).

She needed Bishop and his filial caretaker to help her track down perpetrators of "fringe science" (way-out stuff like mind control, teleportation, astral projection and genetic engineering) who threaten national security and, possibly, the human race.

This calls for Bishop to display his scientific know-how — while wrestling with his demons — in a self-styled jumble of a lab complete with his pet cow, all lodged in a basement at Harvard University.

For Bishop's character to work, you have to buy into everything he says, no matter how unhinged; feel for the guy, no matter how inappropriate his behaviour; care about him, even when he acts ridiculous.

Noble makes it work.

"I understand Walter," Noble explains. "I can understand his childish enthusiasm quite well. I understand his loneliness, and his attempts to re-establish contact with his son.

"There's not any phase where I don't kind of understand where Walter is coming from."

The Australian-born, 61-year-old Noble is a theatre veteran who for a decade was artistic director of the Stage Company of South Australia, which, during his tenure, produced 70 new plays by fellow Aussies. His extensive film work includes two of the Lord of the Rings fantasies, playing Denethor.

Now, he calls his Fringe role "a huge gift. It enables me to use a range of skills developed over so many years, and grow a character over a long period of time."

Just how long may be to doubt. In this, its sophomore season, Fringe has struggled for viewers.

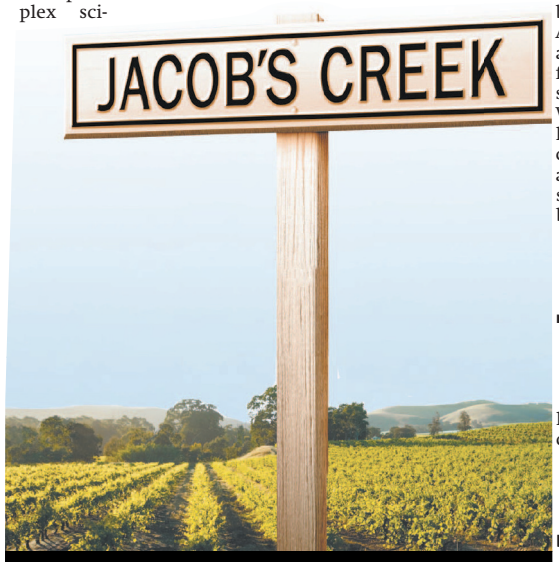
This makes Bishop's added service as comic relief all the more welcome.

Elbow-deep into an autopsy, he might direct his lab assistant to fire up a Bunsen burner and start preparing some custard.

Then he giggles and, in his Brahmin-seasoned accent, says in wonderment, "It's funny: I love custard... but I hate flan!"

Meanwhile, it falls to Bishop to voice a lot of complex scientific exposition (plus loopy-sounding theories) to keep the story moving along. A cinch, insists the actor. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fringe star John Noble plays mad scientist Dr. Walter Bishop on the hit sci-fi series.



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Jones debuts new sound

TALIA SOGHOMONIAN
Metro World News

The 30-year-old singer from Brooklyn took the music world by storm back in 2002 with Come Away With Me. Her new album, The Fall, confirms her talent and desire to move on. Metro World News recently had the opportunity to catch up with the singer and ask her about her sound and the new album.

Q Your sound is distinctly yours, just a bit more experimental...

A It was just time. Sometimes you just feel like you have to do something different..

Q You worked with producer Jacquire King. What did he bring to the album?

A I had a lot of different ideas I wanted to try, but I didn't really know how to try them on my own. Once we talked, we just totally clicked and he really understood what I was talking about.

Q You mentioned having done a lot of demos. Did you get some old ideas and rework them?

A Yeah, I like doing that. Even if I have an old idea, even if I know it's maybe not my best song, I want to write and give it a life as best I can. I always like to pull out old stuff and try to revive it, give it CPR!

Q Is there anyone you'd like to work with?

A I love Tom Waits. I've gotten to sing with a lot of my idols and it's been really great, but sometimes you don't want to work with people you admire.

Q Are you afraid of being disappointed?

A I don't feel like I would really add much. Maybe I could play some piano, but I like his piano playing… I would love to work with somebody like Beck. I feel like he's somebody who is interesting and always trying new things.

Norah Jones

Entertainment in brief

SWIFT RETURNS Fresh off her triumph at the Country Music Association Awards, Taylor Swift has netted a deal to create a line of greeting cards. American Greetings Corp. CEO Zev Weiss says Swift's abilities as a storyteller and songwriter make her a natural for writing cards that will appeal to all ages. The company said that cards, gift wrap, stationery, online greetings and other related products overseen by Swift will begin appearing in the spring. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Battle of the Blades coming back

The elimination-style reality show Battle of the Blades will skate another season. CBC says its celebrity-packed hit series will return next fall with another round of figure-skating competition. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Charges dropped in Hilton, Black Eyed Peas dispute

Black Eyed Peas manager Liborio Molina has written a half-hearted apology to gossip blogger Perez Hilton.

The apology is part of an agreement that led to an assault charge against Molina being dropped yesterday in court.

The charge came after Molina allegedly punched Hilton — whose real name is Mario Lavandeira — outside a Toronto nightclub after the MuchMusic Video Awards in June.

Molina's lawyer, Mark Sandler, read the written apology outside of the courthouse.

"It said: 'I apologize for what I did on June 22 of 2009, even though you engaged in highly offensive comments, including a homophobic slur to my clients, I acknowledge that these kinds of issues should not be resolved through a physical response,'" Sandler read.

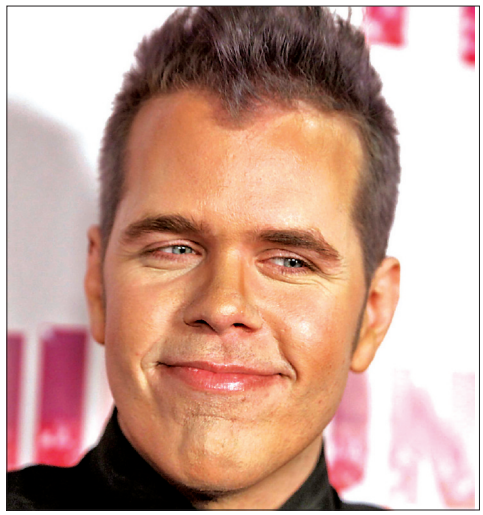
Hilton's lawyers said they were unhappy with the choice of words in the apology, but it was ultimately accepted.

"Although accepting the fact that he shouldn't resort to violence, he attempted to say that there was a precipitating cause," Hilton's lawyer, Brian Greenspan, said afterwards. "A sincere apology is a sincere apology."

As part of the peace bond agreement, Molina has also agreed not to contact Hilton except through his lawyer, can't carry any weapons for 12 months, can't come within 100 metres of Cobra NightClub, where the event allegedly occurred, and has donated $500 to Toronto's Red Door Family Shelter.

Molina allegedly punched Hilton following a heated argument between the blogger and Black Eyed Peas leader will.i.am at a party following the MMVAs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Perez Hilton has been issued an apology by Black Eyed Peas manager Liborio Molina, who allegedly punched Hilton in Toronto in June. Though Hilton's lawyer has criticized the wording of the issued apology.

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Chocabilities, a chocolate tasting and a silent auction to support the Learning Disssabilities Association, takes place at Elmwood Spa, 18 Elm St., at 7 p.m. $75. 416-229-1680.

Comedy
Yuk Yuk's Downtown presents Rick Shapiro through Sunday night. 224 Richmond St. W. yukyuks.com.

Talk
Rick Hillier talks about the changing role of the Canadian military at the Reference Library, 789 Yonge St., at 7 p.m. Free.

Music
Andre Williams & the Sadies perform at the Horseshoe, 370 Queen St. W., at 8:30 p.m. $15. horseshoetavern.com

Event
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Joanna departs Dancing

Model Joanna Krupa is leaving Dancing With the Stars. The Poland-born beauty was eliminated from the hit ABC dance competition show this week.

ADAM LARKEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joanna Krupa and Derek Hough perform on the set of Dancing with the Stars in Los Angeles.

She and professional partner Derek Hough consistently earned high scores on the show. They collected an impressive 81 out of 90 points for their performances on Monday's episode, landing them in second place during the semifinals. But fans failed to keep the couple afloat with their votes.

Viewer votes are combined with judges' scores to determine which contestant is eliminated each week.

"It's been such an amazing experience," Krupa said after learning her fate. "I've grown as a person. Thank you for giving me the opportunity."

Head judge Len Goodman called Krupa and Hough "the most consistent of all of our couples" throughout the season. On Monday's episode, judge Carrie Ann Inaba told Krupa, "You truly are a dancer."

To close Tuesday's show, Krupa and Hough reprised the ethereal Viennese waltz that earned them 27 out of 30 points on Monday and inspired Inaba to say, "You took my breath away."

Tuesday's episode also featured a slew of musical performances. The surviving Bee Gees celebrated the band's 50th anniversary by performing the hit You Should Be Dancing.

Alicia Keys sang her single Try Sleeping With a Broken Heart from her new album, due in stores next month. Leona Lewis performed her latest song, Happy, from her just-released album, Echo.

A new Dancing champ will be crowned next week. Singer Mya, reality star Kelly Osbourne and entertainer Donny Osmond will be vying for the show's coveted mirrorball trophy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Michael Hall accused of attacking ex

Anthony Michael Hall has been ordered to stay away from his ex-girlfriend after he allegedly attacked her in her New York home. Diana Falzone filed papers against the actor last Tuesday. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

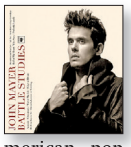
Mayer too sweet for Battle

AlbumReviews

music@metronews.ca

John Mayer

Album: Battle Studies
Label: Columbia/Sony
Rating: ⊕⊕½



JOHN MAYER IS ONE of the rare real talents to come out of the last ten years of American pop music. And he's got some of the best players in the business backing him up with Steve Jordan on drums, Who sideman Pino Palladino on bass, ex-Faces legend Ian McLagan on keyboards and session wizard Waddy Wachtel adding acoustic guitar. So why does Mayer insist on pushing these oh-so-safe, warm-and-cuddly songs at us? Yes, the duet with Taylor Swift is nice. But he didn't have to serve up an entire album of niceness. Even when he tries to prove his guitar rock credentials on Robert Johnson's Crossroads, Mayer wimps out with an oddly smooth version of the blues classic. Mayer needs to find a balance between his self-absorbed live recordings and this overly sweet studio stuff.

Graham Rockingham/ for Metro Canada

Norah Jones

Album: The Fall
Label: EMI
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

A "FALL" FROM GRACE? Certainly not as far as her fans are concerned. Norah Jones' fourth album continues on the rootsy down-tempo path of its predecessors, her sometimes sultry, sometimes charming voice a perfect companion to an evening by the fire place or a wine-fueled dinner. The "fall" in the album title is probably more a fall from innocence, with many of the self-penned tunes stinging with the melancholy of breakup. Jones does, however, show she's capable of being an outlaw rocker ala Steve Nicks on tracks like Young Blood and It's Gonna Be. Also worthy of note are two co-writes, one with Ryan Adams (Light as a Feather) and the other with Okkervil River's Will Sheff (Stuck).

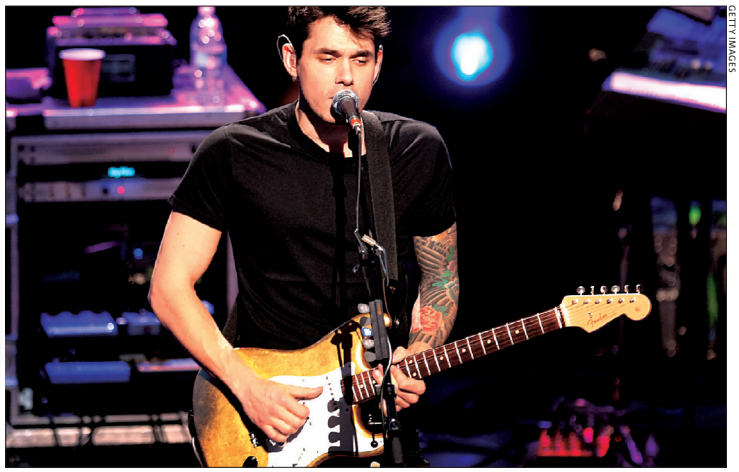
Graham Rockingham/ for Metro Canada

Leona Lewis

Album: Echo
Label: RCA/Sony
Rating: ⊕⊕½

AS FAR AS SINGING competition winners go, Leona Lewis' popularity is on par with Kelly Clarkson and Carrie Underwood. The X Factor champ's debut disc was a massive hit and her second record will sell a lot too. But while she has a stellar voice, her music is boring. She doesn't have Clarkson's rock edge, or Underwood's country charm — she's an R&B pop singer just like Maria Carey. Epic choruses and overwrought versus litter the record — a little more of her own personality would do this record good.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada



GETTY IMAGES

John Mayer serves up some smooth rock in Battle Studies.

Them Crooked Vultures

Album: Them Crooked Vultures
Label: Universal
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕⊕

DAVID GROHL, JOSH HOMME and John Paul Jones must have been listening to a stack of old Cream records when they decided to put together their own supergroup. The comparisons between Cream and Them Crooked Vultures are too tantalizing to ignore. We've got three giants of their genres — Grohl, frontman of the Foo Fighters and and drummer of Nirvana, Homme, guitarist and singer for Queens of the Stone Age; and Jones, bassist and keyboard player for Led Zeppelin — coming together to form a power trio. Dreamy high-pitched vocals ala Jack Bruce, distorted guitar riffs ala Eric Clapton and crazed discordant drumming ala Ginger Baker. Tracks like Scumbag Blues, Bandolier and Elephant could easily have fit onto Disraeli Gears. But who could ever fault three master musicians putting aside egos, to come up with what they used to call, back in the day, a very "heavy" record. Thank goodness, there's no 16-minute drum solos.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Kris Allen

Album: Kris Allen
Label: Jive/Sony
Rating: ⊕⊕½

IF YOU THOUGHT Kris Allen's record would be the first American Idol winner debut to be good, you're out of luck. The spikey-haired boy-next-door, churns out a lot of nauseating faux-rock on his first disc. Like most Idol albums it's completely devoid of the singer's personality — listen to The Truth and you'll see what I mean. Much of the disc is cliché post-reality TV pop. There are some rockers — like Before We Come Undone — but there's too much Rob Thomas-like sap to make this work.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Paul McCartney

Album: Good Evening New York
Label: Hear/Universal
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

DOES THE WORLD really need more recorded renditions of Beatles songs? That's up for debate, but it helps that the guy playing the band's old hits is Paul McCartney. This is yet another live album from Macca that's filled with Beatles tunes, Wings tracks and solo material. The double disc features everything from Drive My Car and Jet to lesser known tracks such as Highway. While there's nothing here you haven't heard before, his voice is still top notch and the recording quality is fantastic. Worth a listen.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

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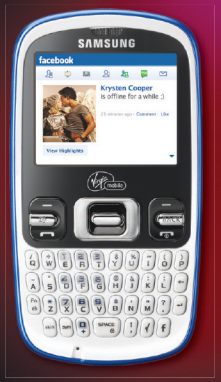

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Nicole hospitalized for pneumonia

Nicole Richie has checked herself into a Los Angeles hospital. A rep for the star tells Usmagazine.com, "Nicole has checked into Ceders Sinai where she is being treated for pneumonia. She is doing well." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Law firm sues Rod Stewart over fees

CELEB JUSTICE A prominent entertainment law firm is suing Rod Stewart for $3.3 million US in legal fees it claims he owes.

Glaser, Weil, Fink, Jacobs, Howard&Shapiro filed the case Tuesday in Los Angeles. The firm has numerous high-profile clients and recently won judgments for architect Frank Gehry and television host Bob Barker. The lawsuit claims Stewart owes for work on three cases, including one involving the singer's cancellation of a December 2000 show in Las Vegas. A federal jury decided Stewart owed the Rio hotel-casino $2 million for cancelling the show.

Rod Stewart

The firm also represented the Rock and Roll Hall of Famer in a trademark infringement case and a lawsuit filed by a concert promoter.

Stewart's manager was not immediately available for comment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The man behind Marcus

Vancouver actor plays the eldest of the Volturi in The Twilight Saga: New Moon

Vancouver actor Christopher Heyerdahl's character in The Twilight Saga: New Moon is a man of few words but considerable power.

He plays Marcus, a member of the Volturi, who are basically the overseers of the vampire world, doing whatever it takes to keep the bloodsuckers in line.

"He's the oldest vampire," Heyerdahl said in an interview. "He's the one with the most wisdom. He says very little, he's not really interested in playing a lot of power games."

Fans of the wildly popular vampire series have been whipped into a frenzy this week ahead of Friday's release of The Twilight Saga: New Moon.

Cineplex Entertainment and E1 Entertainment Canada said Tuesday that the film had already broken the Canadian record for advance ticket sales, with admission purchases already totalling $1.5 million.

Based on the second book in the bestselling series by Stephenie Meyer, New Moon finds love-struck heroine Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) crushed when her vampire boyfriend Edward (Robert Pattinson) leaves town.

She is drawn to Jacob, a budding werewolf and her best friend but she slowly learns that he is also coming to grips with a secret.

With all the heartthrob action going on, Marcus would seem to have a mighty useful power. He can interpret relationships.

But the 3,000-year-old member of a trio of ancients living in Rome uses his skill carefully. "If there is somebody whose allegiances perhaps are waning — a very important thing to know when you're ruling the world — Marcus is the one to sniff that out," the towering, six-foot-four actor says.

JENNIFER GRAYLOCK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Actor Christopher Heyerdahl attends the Los Angeles Premiere of The Twilight Saga: New Moon on Nov. 16.

"There's a lot of intense stuff (in the film). Certainly with the Volturi there's never a dull moment. It's always life and death."
Christopher Heyerdahl

But Marcus also has his particular cross to bear. "He's the one who has loved and lost," says Heyerdahl. Marcus once loved Didyme, who was killed. She was the love of his life and Heyerdahl says that affects how he views Edward and Bella.

"Marcus is able to see the power of the relationship of Edward to Bella, which I think is something that excites, and of course, reminds him of his own loss."

Heyerdahl, who is set to begin filming a new season of the sci-fi drama Sanctuary in Vancouver, enjoyed being in New Moon, which he described as "much more blockbuster in its scope" than the first film. "There's a lot of intense stuff," he said. "Certainly with the Volturi there's never a dull moment. It's always life and death."

Heyerdahl's character does not appear in the third installment, Eclipse, which comes out in June. But his appearance in the current film was enough to delight one Twilight fan. "When I received the offer to do this film, the first person I called was my niece, who was over the moon with the idea of her uncle being part of this beloved family of characters that meant so much to her."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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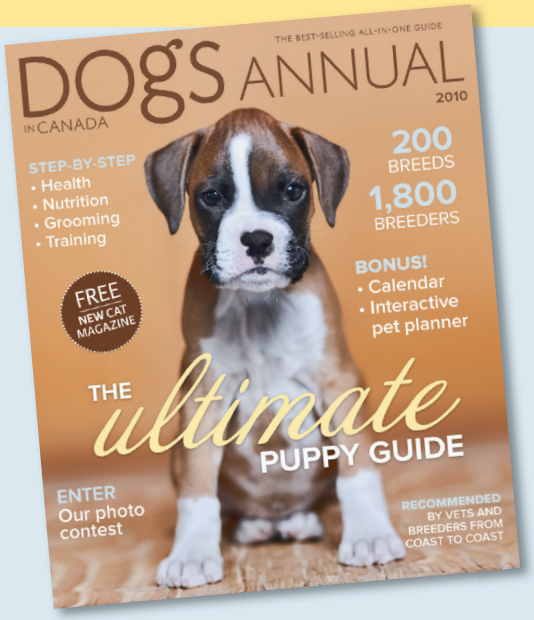

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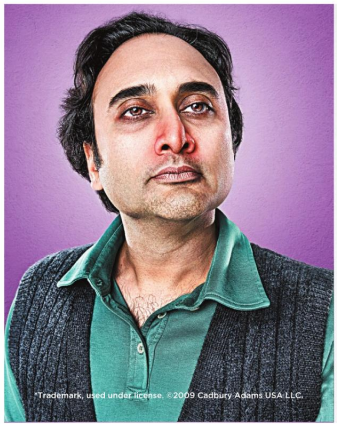

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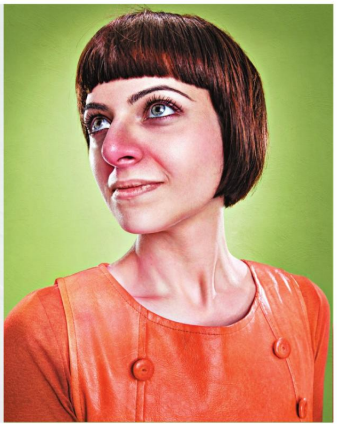

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Rating: ●●●
Dinner & drinks for 2: $65

It takes me two weeks to get a reservation for seven on a Friday. And that's calling on a Monday.

Upon arrival, walk-ins breeze by us and are seated while it takes 18 minutes for us to be taken to a table.

The room is New Yorkish — impossibly-high ceilings, a small dining area with tables cramped closely and a small bar area at the front that packs in the after-work crowd and tourists from nearby hotels.

It is damn loud — we shout at one another, but can make out what's being said. It's a happy, it's-the-weekend kind of vibe.

I love the idea of food and beer intermingling, so I'm excited about the intriguing selections. There are suggested beer pairings for each item which makes it a fun adventure. Our server Daniela is fantastic — her suggestions of beers are bang on and she is friendly and easy-going throughout the entire meal.

On the web

- Get recipes and more great food content at metronews.ca/recipes

The Roasted Pork Knuckle ($23.50) is superb. Crackling, roasted root vegetables, smashed new potatoes and apple-cranberry sour beer chutney make it almost a Thanksgiving feast.

STEPHANIE DICKISON/POSTMEDIA METRO TORONTO

Steak Frites ($23)

The Steak Frites ($23.95) flat iron steak is extremely undercooked and over-salted. We have a great night, though. But maybe that's the beer talking…

Global Peasant blog

- Travel along with Diane Thompson's culinary adventures in her Global Peasant blog.
- Check out metronews.ca/globalpeasant for her newest Green Split Pea Soup recipe

Dining out

ONE-STOP SHOPPING/EATING
Spice Safar, originally from Montreal, has opened 2 locations downtown — one at King & Brant, the other at Adelaide & John. You can shop their boutique — laptop case, books, housewares — while partaking in delicacies from their cafe and bakery and downing one of their in-house espressos. Check out spicesafar.com for more details.

HOLIDAY CONFECTIONS
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In brief

HELPING HANDS Volunteer with Second Harvest the first two weekends in December to help encourage Loblaws customers to purchase a frozen turkey for those in need. Every day Second Harvest picks up fresh food that would otherwise go to waste. Call Nicole Light to volunteer at 416-408-2594. METRO TORONTO

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Meatballs' appeal lives on

Iconic summer camp flick still draws laughs

Meatballs still has a lot of beef. Thirty years after the Canadian summer-camp film starring Bill Murray stormed the box office, teens still seem charmed by its motley crew of misfits.

"We just screened it for 600 kids in a gym and they laughed as though it were made yesterday," Jack Blum, who played Spaz (the super geek with the tape on his glasses) in the Ivan Reitman-directed comedy, said in a recent interview.

"It's clearly a classic and it's still a popular choice." Blum commented after a screening of the comedy at a local school as part of REEL Canada, a program he co-founded with his wife, Sharon Corder, the group's artistic director.

ow into its fifth year, REEL Canada arranges screenings of homegrown films in schools across the country for free and brings in talent from the projects to talk with students.

PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Television personality Larry Solway interviews camp counsellor Bill Murray in a scene from Meatballs.

"We really wanted to disabuse people of the notion that Canadian film was one thing or another, either low-budget or inaccessible or arty or rural — it's actually a whole bunch of things," said Blum, who also writes and produces films and TV series with Corder (the two created the show Traders).

Students get to choose which films they want to see from a REEL Canada program booklet of about 40 titles. Meatballs, said Blum, is picked by students several times a year.

At Marshall McLuhan Catholic Secondary School earlier this week, hundreds howled at the nerds' pratfalls and Murray's wily lines as randy camp counsellor Tripper.

Girls exclaimed "aww" when Rudy the runner (Chris Makepeace) had trouble fitting in. Boys in the room whistled at the scenes in which female characters wore the short shorts that were fashionable at the time.

At the end, when Murray's character rallies the kids with his famous "It just doesn't matter" speech ahead of a big competition with a wealthier rival camp, students erupted in applause.

"I don't think at the time you ever heard that," Blum, whose real-life glasses aren't nearly as thick as those of Spaz's, said of the speech's message.

"I think sort of 'loser chic' became cool later on. I think we really kind of broke that news and said: 'You know what? It's not so important to win the race, it's important to sort of have a good time.'"

Blum was a 20-year-old theatre director when Meatballs was made. His brother, Len, co-wrote the script with Dan Goldberg, Janis Allen and Harold Ramis.

Blum was also one of the casting directors and helped find Canadian talent for the film through an open audition that drew in 1,100 kids over three days in 1978. Only eight made the cut, and they created some "icons" of youth comedy, said Blum.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TO	Vu	SD	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 11/19/09	265	353	2 TVO	Super Structures (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Occupation (Part 2 of 3) (N)		Masterworks (N)		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Survivor: Samoa (N)		The Office (N)	The Office	90210 (HDTV) (N)		News Final
	215	343	4 OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6 CBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Up Against the Wall (N)		The Border "Bride Price"		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Community (N)	Parks-Recreat	30 Rock	30 Rock	The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	212	313	8 CTV	The Vampire Diaries (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Grey's Anatomy (N)		The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)		CTV News
	218	345	11 CHCH	*Clueless* ★★★ (1995, Comedy) Alicia Silverstone.				*The Lost Boys* ★★★ (1987, Horror) Jason Patric.				News at 11 (N)
	-	-	14 -	Family Guy	The Office	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Mushuau Innu
	213	326	15 SUN	The Insider (N)	George Lopez	Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		The Insider	Hitchcock Pres	Becker
	-	387	16 CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Survivor: Samoa (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17 NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Community (N)	Parks-Recreat	The Office (N)	30 Rock	The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	-	386	18 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	FlashForward "Believe"		Grey's Anatomy (N)		(10:01) Private Practice (N)		News
	219	346	20 ACH-B	TMZ (N)	Hollywood	FlashForward "Believe"		Fringe "August" (N)		(10:01) Private Practice (N)		A News
	-	-	28 FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		Fringe "August" (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61 PBS	News-Lehrer	My Hero	Doc Martin		The Chuck Ealey Story		MI-5 "The Russian"		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330 WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	The Vampire Diaries (N)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331 SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: SVU		WBZ News	Frasier	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier
	298	653	332 TLA	The Tyra Show (N)		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Vamp. Diaries
news	502	390	26 NW	Connect Today's biggest stories. (N)				CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		National
	500	500	33 CNN	CNN Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79 CNB	Kudlow Report		Coca-Cola: The Real Story		The Oprah Effect		Biography on CNBC (N)		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22 net	MMA Conn	Sportsnet Con.	NFL Football Miami Dolphins at Carolina Panthers. From Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, N.C.						
	400	400	30 TSN	NHL Hockey Toronto Maple Leafs at Carolina Hurricanes. (HDTV) (Live)					NHL Hockey Chicago Blackhawks at Calgary Flames.			
	411	457	58 OLN	Ghost Hunters International		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Survivorman		Ghost Hunters International		Bounty Hunter
	417	406	81 SC	NASCAR Racing		Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)		Jacked!	Jacked!	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pass Time
family	551	542	25 YTV	Drake & Josh	To Be Indie	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz "d"	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline Proj
	554	544	45 TEL	Stoked	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN (N)	Futurama	King of the Hill	*Galaxy Quest* ★★★ (1999, Comedy)		
	556	540	51 FAM	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled! (N)	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
cable variety	602	567	27 W	Old Christine	Friends	Friends	Grocery Bag	Confidential	Confidential	Divine Design	Divine Design	Don't Move
	570	580	29 MM	One Tree Hill		So You Think You Can Dance Canada				Love Court	Instant Star	My Date With...
	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		Crime 360
	700	800	35 TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	La Professoressa di Scienze Naturali				George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
	571	581	36 MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Johnny Cash: Man in Black		Entourage	Wild 'n Out	mmtop10.ca
	575	583	38 CMT	Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Unstable
	616	521	39 SHO	The Outer Limits		Da Vinci's City Hall		Foundatn	Paradise Falls	Saving Grace "Popcorn"		NCIS
	620	523	40 BVO	Storytellers	PhotoXplorers	Bathroom Divas-Opera Star		*Whole New Thing* ★★ (2005, Comedy-Drama)				Law & Order
	601	562	41 SLC	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		X-Weighted "Leanne"		X-Weighted		X-Weighted "Amy"		ET Canada
	522	506	43 HIS	Ice Road Truckers		Ancient Discoveries		Underworld Histories		Life After People		Disaster
	625	548	44 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Hot Box	Jon Dore Show	Daily Show
	600	564	46 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes Inspection		Renovation	Disaster DIY	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes
	294	529	47 TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: SVU		*Just Friends* (2005, Romance-Comedy)		
	576	582	49 BET	106 & Park	Food: 50 Cent	Monica: Still	Monica: Still	*Menace II Society* ★★★ (1993, Drama) Tyrin Turner.				Mo'Nique
	627	528	50 SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Primeval		Eureka (N)		InnerSpace (N)
	581	566	52 MTV	The City	After	Disaster Date	Disaster Date	Real World-Road Rules		Twilight: Moon	News Special	MTV Live
	618	524	54 TROP	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	The Outer Limits		ET Canada	TV Made, Do It	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	603	561	56 FOOD	Ricardo	Road Grill	Restaurant Makeover		Heston's Feasts (N)		Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Family
	261	394	60 V	Murder, She Wrote		On the Buses	'Allo, 'Allo!	*Left Behind* ★ (2000, Suspense) Kirk Cameron, Brad Johnson.				I Prophesy
	621	527	63 STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65 TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Waybuloo	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Babar	Zigby	Max & Ruby
	526	507	249 VIVA	Cold Case		Missing "Puzzle Box"		The Closer "Blue Blood"		Cold Case		Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301 M1	(6:45) *Mulligans* (2008, Drama)			Nurse Jackie	*Morning Light* ★★ (2008, Documentary) Premiere.				*Stop-Loss*
	305	612	306 PIX	(6:30) *Rio Bravo* ★★★ (1959, Western) John Wayne.				*Carlito's Way* ★★★ (1993, Crime Drama) Al Pacino, Sean Penn.				
	520	-	- DISC	Daily Planet (N)		Life "Mammals" (N)		Life "Fish" (N)		MythBusters		Daily Planet
	637	-	- TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island Wedding.		Hart to Hart		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
	605	-	- FASH	America's Next Top Model		FashionTele	RAW	Canada's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		Australia's

critics'corner

Rio Bravo

One of the screen's truly classic Westerns, director Howard Hawks' 1959 saga draws together an unlikely band of heroes. John Wayne leads them as a sheriff determined to keep a killer in jail, though others are just as determined to spring the criminal. Dean Martin, Ricky Nelson, Walter Brennan and Angie Dickinson play those who try to help the sheriff maintain the law. 6 AM on PIX

Fringe

A peculiar abduction in Boston leads the Fringe team to uncover details of the mysterious man known as The Observer (guest star Michael Cerveris). Walter, Peter and Astrid (John Noble, Joshua Jackson, Jasika Nicole) analyze unusual evidence and deal with Walter's insatiable appetite for milkshakes in the new episode "August." 9 PM on ACH-B, FOX

Police ask judge to seal Jackson warrant

INVESTIGATION A police detective asked a Nevada judge yesterday to keep warrant documents in the Michael Jackson death investigation sealed until Jan. 18. Los Angeles police Detective Orlando Martinez made the request by telephone before Clark County District Court Judge Valerie Adair closed the hearing to the public.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's**Style**

Kenya Hunt

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Underwood to remain a hometown gal for now

Things are going well for Carrie Underwood and hockey boyfriend Mike Fisher — but not well enough for the two to shack up, people.com reports. "No, call me old-fashioned. He's there. I'm here," the country star said. METRO NEWS SERVICES

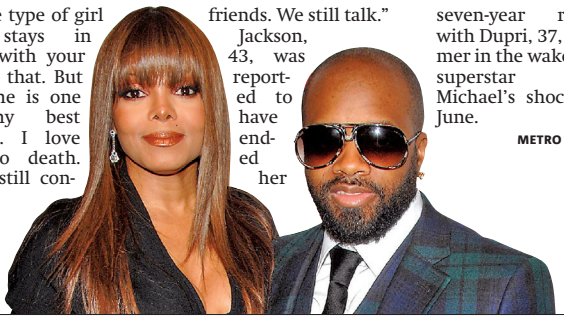
Celebrity Buzz

Janet confirms rumoured split

THAT'S THE WAY LOVE GOES Janet Jackson has confirmed she has split from boyfriend Jermaine Dupri, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer — who was first rumoured to have separated from the music executive in July — admitted she didn't keep in touch with any of her ex-lovers apart from Dupri during a U.S. radio interview.

Speaking on Atlanta's Bert Show, Janet said: "I'm not the type of girl that stays in touch with your ex like that. But Jermaine is one of my best friends. I love him to death. We're still connected. We're still good friends. We still talk."



Jackson, 43, was reported to have ended her seven-year relationship with Dupri, 37, in the summer in the wake of her pop superstar brother Michael's shock death in June.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

I'm no Twilight fan, says Cyrus

UNLESS SHE GETS OFFERED A ROLE, PERHAPS? There's at least one teenager not going nuts over New Moon, and it's Miley Cyrus. The Hannah Montana star says she has no interest in the Twilight series.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity tweets

Diablo Cody is tough to live next to sometimes, Harry Potter star Tom Felton is easily disappointed, and Dita Von Teese gets her jollies any way she can.

• @diablocody If you're my neighbor, I'm sorry if a giant dead rat just flew into your yard at about 80 mph. Don't ask. I'm sorry we panicked.

• @TomFelton i hate when u make a cup of tea and then u forget to drink it whilst its hot & then u have a gross cold tea left that isn't drinkable!

• @DitaVonTeese Blocking people on Twitter ALMOST satisfies my desire to have appeared as a guest judge on The Gong Show.

METRO WORLD NEWS

O'Neal 'not upset' by Fawcett's will

TOUGH LOVE STORY It doesn't bother Ryan O'Neal that Farrah Fawcett failed to name him one of the beneficiaries of her will. "Farrah's and my relationship was based on a deep love and respect for one another and for our son Redmond," the actor said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Locklear a diva on set?

ART IMITATING LIFE Since joining the cast of the new Melrose Place, original series star Heather Locklear hasn't been making life easy for her co-workers, according to the National Enquirer. "Heather's creating a lot of drama with her diva antics. It's making our lives miserable," a source says, adding that as a late addition to the show, Locklear feels pressure to improve the show's floundering ratings. "She's insecure and on edge. The responsibility is weighing heavily on her."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

J.Lo ex claims safety fears

DON'T MESS WITH LA LOPEZ Ojani Noa claims he's been living in fear ever since he attempted to sell a book and intimate home videos of him and ex-wife Jennifer Lopez.

"She's having him followed," his manager tells Life & Style Weekly. We just ran the license plate of the car, and it goes directly back to Jennifer Lopez. Ojani's scared." Noa's lawyer adds, "We have some concerns right now about the personal safety of Ojani. We believe he's under surveillance by someone. He's had death threats."

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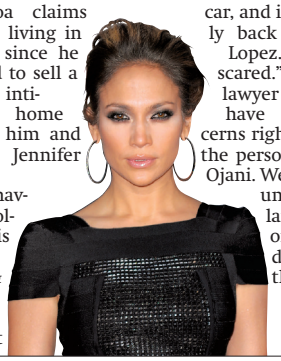


Twilight star 'invisible' to after-party security

BUT DEFINITELY NOT TO THOUSANDS OF SCREECHING FANS He may be famous to millions of Twilight fans, but Kellan Lutz wasn't recognized by security at the after-party for the New Moon premiere in L.A. this week, as he was initially denied entrance, according Page Six.

"He just snapped at the bouncer after a few seconds," a source says. "It looked like things were getting physical between them."

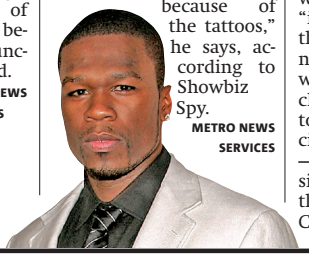
Lutz reportedly turned to the amassed fans for help, yelling to the crowd outside, "They won't let me into my own party." After chants of "Let him in!" began, the bouncer relented.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

50 Cent's tattoo blues

SUFFERING FOR HIS ART Rapper 50 Cent finally found the one thing that would make him go through with laser tattoo-removal surgery: waking up early. "I've been on a few acting projects and my call time is four hours before the regular acting talent because of the tattoos," he says, according to Showbiz Spy.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Cage 'already in deep debt' says ex-manager

FACE/OFF Nicolas Cage's former business manager has filed a cross complaint in Los Angeles Superior Court against the star, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Samuel J. Levin — who was branded "incompetent" by the actor over his financial advice, which Nicolas claimed has led him towards financial ruin — insists the Con Air star was already in deep debt when he hired him in 2001.

In the complaint filed last week, Levin insisted Cage refused to listen to his advice, resulting in him having an unpaid tax bill believed to be around $6 million.

He said: "From the start of our Business Management Agreement he knew about his perilous financial situation and he knew he was behind on paying his taxes."

The business manager claims he "warned" the actor he needed to earn a minimum of $30 million a year to support his lavish lifestyle and agreed a string of financial objectives which included selling "more than a dozen" of his cars and his $1.6 million comic book collection.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The Weather Network
TWN incorporates MSC data

Today Rain 90% 10°/ 4°
Friday Showers 60% 8°/ 1°
Saturday Partly cloudy 9°/ 1°

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Take Five

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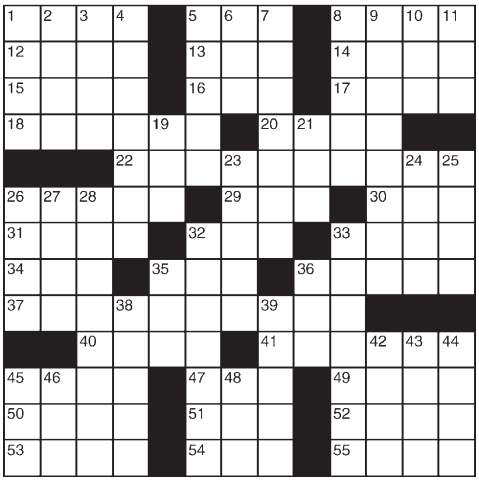

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	7	2	8					
3				5				8
				7				6
4		7			1		3	
5	3						8	1
	9		4			5		2
2				6				
1				9				4
					4	3	6	

ACROSS

1 Church service
5 Life story, for short
8 Money
12 Norway's capital
13 Bobby of hockey
14 Out of the storm
15 Authentic
16 "My Gal —"
17 Charged bits
18 Tribe known for their rugs
20 Swiss river
22 Visiting casually
26 Happy companion?
29 Praise in verse
30 Historic time
31 "Sad to say, ..."
32 Pair
33 Advanced math
34 Zero
35 "Eureka!"
36 Alan Ladd classic
37 Failing
40 Werewolf's inspiration
41 Extremely tiny
45 God, in Guadalajara
47 Unsettling noise
49 Sneaky trick
50 Top-notch
51 List-ending abbr.
52 Summertime desserts
53 Purchases
54 Shad product
55 Immediately following

DOWN

1 Sunup time
2 Cruising
3 Czech, Serb or Pole
4 Comforts
5 — buddy
6 George's brother
7 Florida tourist mecca
8 Egypt's capital
9 Skin cream ingredient
10 Congress addr.
11 "— a real nowhere man, ..."
19 Behar of The View
21 Time of your life?
23 Davenport dweller
24 Sportscaster Andrews
25 Anger
26 "Phooey!"
27 A little of everything
28 Certain breakup payment
32 Roaring sound
33 Add
35 Past
36 Prepared
38 Face parts
39 Take to the floor
42 Cinderella's horses, really
43 Holm oak
44 "— Si Bon"
45 Slight amount
46 Debtor's letters
48 "Who am — judge?"

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

2	9	4	7	3	1	5	6	8
5	7	3	2	8	6	1	9	4
8	6	1	9	4	5	2	3	7
9	3	5	8	6	2	4	7	1
6	2	8	1	7	4	3	5	9
4	1	7	3	5	9	8	2	6
1	8	2	6	9	3	7	4	5
7	4	6	5	2	8	9	1	3
3	5	9	4	1	7	6	8	2

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

ALICIA McAULEY

Chicken Parmesan

Submitted by Samantha Denham, Toronto

INGREDIENTS:

4 chicken breasts
3/4 cup flour
3/4 cup breadcrumbs, with handful of grated Parmesan cheese mixed in
2 eggs beaten, add 1 tbsp water
1 cup grated cheese (mix of half mozzarella, half Parmesan)
2 tbsp olive oil
1 cup marinara sauce
1/2 package spaghettini

METHOD:

1. Pound chicken breasts flat with a mallet. Coat with flour, then dip in egg mixture, then coat with breadcrumbs, pressing the breadcrumbs into the chicken.
2. Boil water and cook pasta.
3. In an ovenproof pan, heat olive oil. Over high heat, cook chicken on each side for 2 minutes until golden. When all four are done, keep chicken in pan and cover generously with cheese mixture. Then pour the marinara sauce over chicken.
4. Bake for 15 min at 350 F, until cheese is bubbly.

SERVES 4
PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 10 MINUTES

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
If your instincts tell you one thing today but everyone else tells you something different, then you must trust your instincts.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Cosmic activity in your chart means you'll sense when something is about to happen well before anyone else. That gives you an advantage. Use it.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Your task today is to become an equal partner with the planets in shaping your destiny. Go with the flow but make the flow work for you.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You may daydream about having no family or financial worries, but why imagine it when, with a bit of effort, you could make it happen for real?

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You know what needs to be done and you know if you don't make a start soon the chance to change your life for the better could pass you by.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
The influence of Mars in one of the more outgoing areas of the sky is helpful for taking risks, but only if they are of the calculated variety.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You may have serious things to do today but you can still have fun while you are doing them. In the next 24 hours, find ways to get the best of both worlds.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You may not be the type to wear your heart on your sleeve but you need to be more open emotionally and today's Venus-Mars link will help.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
The cosmic trend dominating your life at the moment is so positive that you have nothing to worry about, but for some reason you still fear the worst.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Cosmic activity may make you feel that if you don't do something now the chance will pass you by. It won't — it will be there tomorrow just like today.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You'll find it easier to be assertive today, but don't be assertive just for the sake of it. Work with people who share your aims and ambitions.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Someone you work with or do business with will make the proverbial offer you cannot refuse today. Don't hesitate — say "Yes" immediately.

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For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**

Take Five

Lamb Lollipops

INGREDIENTS:
1 rack of lamb (8 chops)
Lamb caul fat or prosciutto
250 ml (1 cup) baby arugula
75 ml (5 tbsp) extra-virgin olive oil
4 cloves garlic
90 g (3 oz) toasted pine nuts
Juice and zest of 1/2 lemon
Salt and pepper, to taste

METHOD:
1) In a food processor, place arugula, olive oil, garlic, pine nuts, lemon juice and zest and process until smooth.
2) Cut rack of lamb into chops and wrap bones in foil to prevent browning.
3) Place 5 ml (1 tsp) of the pesto on piece of spread-out caul fat or prosciutto.
4) Season each chop with salt and pepper, place on pesto and wrap caul fat or prosciutto around chop.
5) Place on a baking sheet and roast at 230 C (450 F) for 3 to 5 minutes or until fat is tight around chop.

MAKES 8 CHOPS AND 250 ML (1 CUP) PESTO

Metro Recipes of the Day

RYAN PFEIFFER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

RYAN PFEIFFER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lamb lollipop, left, with arugula and pine nut pesto and Phyllo, right, wrapped brie with carmelized shallots.

Phyllo-Wrapped Baked Brie

INGREDIENTS:
1 shallot, finely minced
125 ml (1/2 cup) red pepper jelly, divided
3 sheets phyllo dough
125 ml (1/2 cup) melted unsalted (clarified) butter
125 ml (1/2 cup) sliced almonds sliced
1 small wheel of brie or Camembert

METHOD:
1) Preheat oven to 190 C (375 F).
2) In a saute pan, sweat shallot until it starts to caramelize, keeping temperature low.
3) Lay out one sheet of phyllo on a work surface; brush evenly with butter. Lay a second sheet on top and repeat until you have three layers.
4) Place cooled shallot mixture in the middle of the phyllo sheets. Place brie on top of shallot mixture. Wrap sides and bottom and flip over.
5) Bake for 15 to 20 minutes until golden brown. Let cool for 15 minutes before slicing. Garnish with remaining jelly.

MAKES 8 SERVINGS

Cranberry Duck Scones

SCONE INGREDIENTS:
375 ml (1 1/2 cups) all-purpose flour (approx)
30 ml (2 tbsp) sugar
6 ml (1 1/4 tsp) baking powder
1 ml (1/4 tsp) baking soda
2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
125 ml (1/2 cup) cold unsalted butter
125 ml (1/2 cup) dried cranberries, chopped
125 ml (1/2 cup) buttermilk (approx)

METHOD:
1) In a large bowl, sift together flour, salt, sugar, baking soda and baking powder.
2) Cut in butter. Add buttermilk and mix until just combined.
3) Turn out dough onto a floured work surface and knead dough until it comes together, then roll out to about 5 mm (1/4 inch) thick.
4) Cut out small rounds of dough about 2.5 cm (1 inch) in diameter and place on a cookie sheet.
5) bake at 190 C (375 F) until golden brown and risen.

DUCK INGREDIENTS:
Duck must be prepared several days ahead
5 duck breasts
125 ml (1/2 cup) salt
5 thyme sprigs
Zest of 2 oranges
Small jar fig jam
125 ml (1/2 cup) sprouts or greens
250 g (1/2 lb) gorgonzola

METHOD:
1) Trim off any visible silver skin. Dust with salt and lay thyme sprigs and orange zest on flesh side. Sandwich breasts between two trays and press with weights for 1 day.
2) Rinse and dry breasts and place in refrigerator for 2 to 3 days until dried. To serve, slice breast very thinly across the grain.
3) To assemble, slice scones in half and place on a baking sheet. Place fig jam on bottom layers, place small sprouts or greens on jam and top with a slice of duck. Place a slice of gorgonzola on top and melt in 180 C (350 F) oven (watch carefully so it doesn't scorch). Place tops on scones and serve warm.

MAKES 12 SCONES

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GRADUATE REBATE PROGRAM

"The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trade marks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp., and used under licence. ¥Last months's price is the price as of October 2009 for a 2010 Sonata GL 5-speed. Price for model shown: 2010 Sonata V6 Limited model shown is $29,499. ♦Last year's starting price is the lease/finance starting price as of December 2008 for a 2009 Elantra L/2009 Tucson L/2009 Santa Fe 2.7L GL. Prices for models shown: 2009 Elantra Limited of $20,295/2009 Tucson Limited of $27,495/2009 Santa Fe Limited of $32,445. ψPrices for models shown: 2010 Accent 3 DR GL Short 5-speed $16,999/2010 Elantra Touring GLS Sport 5-speed $21,699. ¥‡‡Delivery and Destination charges of $1,565 for 2010 Sonata/$1,495 for 2009 Elantra/$1,765 for 2009 Tucson / $1,765 for 2009 Santa Fe/$1,495 for 2010 Accent/$1,495 for 2010 Elantra Touring, registration, insurance, license fees and taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charges includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ◊Purchase financing available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services on 2010 Sonata/2009 Elantra/2009 Tucson/2009 Santa Fe/2010 Accent 3 DR/2010 Elantra Touring models with 0% APR for 36/48/60/36 month terms. Financing rate is 0% for 36/48/60/36 months on 2010 Elantra L 5-speed $16,995 at 0% per annum for a 60/60 month walk-away lease. Down Payment of $0/$0 and first monthly payment required. Total lease obligation is $11,640/$13,020. Lease offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,495/$1,495. Applicable license fees, insurance, registration, PPSA ($45), and taxes are excluded. $0 security deposit on all models. 20,000 km allowance per year applies. Additional charge of $0.10/km. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ♦♦φ"Offers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ‡You may qualify for an additional incentive ($200 in B.C.) if you turn in your 1995 model year and older vehicle and participate in the National Retire Your Ride program, funded by the Government of Canada. To qualify, your vehicle must be 1995 model year or older, in running condition and fully registered and insured in the participant's province for the last 6 consecutive months (12 months in B.C.). Upon confirmation of eligibility for the Retire Your Ride program, Hyundai Auto Canada will provide an additional Clean Air Cash that must be applied to the purchase of a new Hyundai vehicle in the amount of ($500 - 2009 Accent / $500 - 2009 Elantra sedan / $500 - 2009 Elantra Touring / $500 - 2009 Tucson / $500 - 2009 Santa Fe / $1,000 - 2009 Genesis Sedan / $1,000 - 2009 Veracruz / $1,000 - 2009 Azera / $500 - 2010 Accent / $500 - 2010 Elantra sedan / $500 - 2010 Elantra Touring / $500 - 2010 Genesis Coupe / $500 - 2010 Sonata / $1,000 - 2010 Veracruz. Clean Air Cash will be applied to reduce the after-tax purchase price of your new Hyundai vehicle. By participating in this program you will not be eligible for any trade-in value for your old vehicle. For more information about the Retire Your Ride Program visit www.retireyourride.ca. Some conditions apply, see dealer for details. ‡‡See your dealer for eligible vehicles and full details of the Graduate Rebate Program. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.